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Japan

Government Approves Sending Minesweepers to Gulf

OW2404120691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1146 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—The Japanese Government Wednesday formally approved the Japanese military's first overseas nontraining mission since World War II—the deployment of four minesweepers to the Persian Gulf.

The minesweepers, one supply ship, and one support boat will leave Friday to join international mine-clearing efforts in the Gulf.

Members of the coalition that defeated Iraq in the Persian Gulf war earlier this year asked Japan to send minesweepers to help clear the hundreds of mines spread by Iraq in the Gulf waters.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu convened the Security Council, the nation's supreme defense policy board, and then the cabinet Wednesday to officially approve the mission.

The ships will leave Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) ports in Yokosuka in Kanagawa Prefecture, Kure in Hiroshima Prefecture, and Sasebo in Nagasaki Prefecture.

The decision to send the minesweepers culminates a series of attempts by the government to contribute logistically to U.N.- sponsored operations in the Gulf and elsewhere.

In September, the government announced the outline of a draft U.N. peace cooperation law designed to allow Self-Defense Forces (SDF) members to participate in global peacemaking and peacekeeping efforts.

The government scrapped the legislation in November in the face of objections from opposition parties. It later used a cabinet ordinance to put some elements of its proposal into effect, but the plan proved impractical and no SDF personnel ever participated in the war against Iraq.

Opposition parties, with the exception of the Democratic Socialist Party, oppose the deployment of the minesweepers.

The government argues it is important to secure safe navigation in the Gulf because Japan depends on the Middle East for about 70 percent of its oil.

It has argued that sending the minesweepers is part of Japan's contribution for peaceful and humanitarian purposes in accord with the ideals of the Constitution.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto has cited Article 99 of the SDF law as the legal basis for the overseas dispatch of SDF personnel and equipment.

The provision allows the MSDF to removes mines and other explosives under the orders of the Defense Agency chief. It does not say such activities are limited to Japanese waters.

The six ships will be led by the 2,000-ton minesweeper support ship Hayase, with a crew of 180 officers and sailors from Kure.

The four minesweepers are the Yurishima from Kure, the Hikoshima from Sasebo, and the Awashima and Sakushima from Yokosuka. They range from 450 to 490 tons in size and each has a crew of 45.

The 8,150-ton supply ship Tokiwa from Yokosuka with its crew of 140 will fill out the mission. Japan has 32 minesweepers in all.

The group is to make port calls in Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan on its 13,000-kilometer journey to the Gulf. The voyage is expected to take 30 to 40 days.

In Kure, home of 13 SDF minesweepers, a group of antiwar citizens took their opposition to the government's decision to the water in a flotilla of nine rubber dinghies Wednesday morning.

Maritime Safety Agency patrol boats broke up the demonstration, but not before protesters unfurled banners opposing the deployment.

Nine Hiroshima Prefecture residents Wednesday filed a lawsuit against the government in an attempt to stop the deployment of the minesweepers.

The group says the deployment is a clear violation of Article 9 of the Constitution, which bans the use of force for settling international disputes.

Activists Protest Dispatch

OW2404062491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0543 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Hiroshima, April 24 KYODO - Antiwar activists formed a flotilla of rubber dinghies in a demonstration in Kure Port in western Japan on Wednesday against the government plan to send four minesweepers to the Persian Gulf.

Thirteen Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) minesweepers plus two supply ships are based in Kure, about 30 kilometers south of Hiroshima.

They include the 2,000-ton tender "Hayase" and the 490-ton minesweeper "Yurishima," which are both due to go to the Gulf.

The cabinet is expected to give the final go-ahead for the dispatch of the ships in a meeting Wednesday evening, and they will sail on Friday on a mission to help clear mines laid during the Gulf war.

A spokesman for the protesters, Ichiro Yuasa, said the dispatch of Armed Forces personnel from the Hiroshima area is intolerable, given that the city suffered from the atomic bombing in World War II.

"It ignores the spirit of Hiroshima," Yuasa said. "We absolutely have to stop it."

Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) patrol boats broke up the demonstration, but not before demonstrators in nine dinghies managed to unfurl banners opposing the dispatch of the minesweepers.

Another of the demonstrators' dinghies approached to within two meters of the stern of the "Hayase" before being edged away by an MSA patrol boat.

A group of nine Hiroshima Prefecture residents on Wednesday brought a lawsuit against the government in an attempt to stop the dispatch of minesweepers.

According to their suit, the dispatch is a clear violation of Article 9 of the Constitution, which bans the use of force for settling international disputes.

The suit also complained that it is a use of tax revenue not authorized by citizens and infringes on their basic rights as taxpayers.

Kaifu: PRC Stance on Minesweepers 'Overreaction'

OW2404041991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0410 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu brushed aside China's criticism on Wednesday of the impending dispatch of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) minesweepers to the Persian Gulf.

Kaifu told reporters that a flotilla of Japanese minesweepers which is expected to sail for the Gulf on Friday will not be accompanied by cruisers, and that Chinese criticism is an "overreaction."

Kaifu said Japan has already sufficiently explained that there is no cause for concern in the dispatch of the minesweepers.

He added that he believes the Chinese Government would understand if a detailed explanation was given, because the minesweepers will be on a peacetime mission.

The decision to send the minesweepers to help clear mines laid during the Persian Gulf war, Japan's first overseas dispatch of military forces since World War II, is expected to be formalized by the cabinet on Wednesday evening.

The official Chinese news agency XINHUA on Tuesday called the plan "a dangerous first step in sending troops overseas."

XINHUA questioned the Japanese Government's motives in continuing to push for the overseas dispatch of SDF personnel despite the end of the Persian Gulf war.

It said the proposed minesweeper mission would expand Japan's military influence in Asia, since the ships would traverse 13,000 kilometers through waters near countries such as the Philippines, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan.

Kaifu said he will seek understanding on the issue from Asian countries during his 10-day visit to five members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) starting Saturday.

Admiral on Preparations for Minesweeping Mission

OW2304160491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1512 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—With a flotilla of Japanese minesweepers set to leave for the Persian Gulf on Friday, around five crew members have declined to go along, the country's top admiral said Tuesday.

Adm. Hajime Sakuma, chief of staff of the Maritime Self-Defense Force [MSDF], said the sailors, among the 500 crew members scheduled to be sent to the Gulf, have cited opposition from their families or health problems as reasons why they cannot put up with the monthlong journey to the Gulf.

Dispatch of the minesweepers is expected to be formally approved at a cabinet meeting Wednesday.

Sakuma said the MSDF has mostly finished preparations for the dispatch, such as forming the fleet and loading the materials, after receiving orders from the director general of the Defense Agency, Yukihiko Ikeda, last Tuesday.

The MSDF has also finished conducting medical checkups of the crews and has confirmed their intentions, he said.

"Morale is high and we are responding calmly," Sakuma told reporters. "I think many Japanese people support this mission."

So far, forces from eight countries, including the U.S. Navy, are removing mines in the area.

Sakuma said the MSDF is collecting information from the U.S. military and through diplomatic channels but is considering sending an advance team depending on circumstances.

The flotilla comprises four minesweepers, one supply ship, and one support boat, which will leave ports in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, Kure, Hiroshima Prefecture, and Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture, on Friday.

Watanabe on Kaifu Term, SDF Participation

OW2404105691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1032 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Senior ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leader Michio Watanabe said Wednesday Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will remain in office until the end of his two-year term in late October.

Watanabe, a former LDP Policy Affairs Research Council chairman, made the remark in a lecture to about 200 newspaper editors and businessmen organized by KYODO News Service.

The head of the No. 4 faction within the LDP said, "The cabinet of Prime Minister Kaifu will continue even though dissatisfaction for the prime minister is simmering in the party."

Senior LDP leaders will not able to remove Kaifu from the premiership as they have differing political interests, Watanabe said.

The LDP presidency carries the prime minister's job with it as the party commands a majority in the powerful House of Representatives.

Watanabe also touched on the shaping of a U.N. peacekeeping organization, saying the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) should participate in such an organization when it supervises ceasefire activities.

He said the SDF is a professional body capable of carrying out ceasefire work.

Watanabe said participation of the SDF in permanent UN forces would not violate the war-renouncing Constitution as the right of command of those forces lies with the UN Security Council.

$100 Million in Aid for Kurdish Refugees Pledged

OW2404121791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1204 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Japan will provide 100 million dollars in urgent financial assistance to UN operations easing the plight of Kurds and other Iraqi refugees, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Wednesday.

Officials said Nakayama told his colleagues in a cabinet meeting Wednesday evening that the pledged funds are equal to a quarter of the amount requested last week by the office of the UN Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO).

Japan has so far given 10 million dollars to UNDRO in emergency relief funds for the refugees, some 1.6 million of whom have fled from Iraq to neighboring Iran and Turkey.

Nakayama said many of the refugees are being forced to eke out a miserable living in the cold and rugged mountains along Iraq's borders with Iran and Turkey.

He said they suffer from shortages of supplies such as food, tents, and blankets.

Gorbachev Adviser Comments on Islands Dispute

OW2404054691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0515 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Kyoto, April 24 KYODO - A top adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told a conference in Kyoto on Wednesday that Japan and the Soviet Union must find a "nontraditional" solution to their territorial dispute.

The adviser, Alexsandr Yakovlev, told a meeting of the International Press Institute, "the complexity of the (territorial) issue will call for a compromise, it will call for us to go beyond the ossified formula that we have followed in the past and to look for a new nontraditional solution."

Yakovlev, who accompanied Gorbachev on his four-day visit to Japan last week, said the visit heralded a breakthrough in bilateral relations.

The agreements to demilitarize the disputed islands and allow Japanese to visit them without visas will help remove obstacles to improving relations, Yakovlev told a panel discussion on Asia after the cold war.

Yakovlev told the assembly of news editors and publishers that he was disappointed Tokyo had not been forthcoming with economic assistance.

Japan has said it will complete a peace treaty and offer large- scale economic assistance only after the two nations resolve the dispute over four islands off of Hokkaido seized by the Red Army at the end of World War II.

Questioned by a reporter after the panel discussion, Yakovlev denied that the Soviet Union has recognized the validity of a 1956 agreement to return two of four disputed islands to Japan.

Asked whether a communique signed by Gorbachev and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in Tokyo last week signals the Soviet Government's return to the 1956 joint declaration, Yakovlev said "I don't think so. It was only mentioned."

Kaifu suggested immediately after the release of the joint communique that Gorbachev had agreed to abide by the 1956 Joint Declaration, but Japanese Foreign Ministry officials later expressed caution about interpreting the wording of the document.

In the 1956 declaration, which led to the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two countries, the Soviet Union agreed to return the two smaller islands—Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets—once a peace treaty was concluded between the two countries.

The Soviets revoked the agreement after Tokyo renewed a security treaty with the United States in 1960.

'Territorial Issue' Omitted in Gorbachev Speech

OW2204052491 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 18 Apr Morning Edition p 3

[Text] President Gorbachev officially referred to "the territorial issue" between Japan and the Soviet Union for the first time in his Diet speech on 17 April. However, a Soviet translator omitted the words. The Soviet side explained that "the omission was a simple slip, and it was not made for any political aim." Dietmen of both ruling and opposition parties are voicing their disappointment at the omission, saying that "we wanted to confirm the president's step-forward view on the issue" since it is a matter of great concern for Japan.

The words in question were incorporated in a closing portion concerning "Japan-Soviet relations" of the president's speech. The Russian text of the speech definitely acknowledged the existence of the northern territories issue, saying that "Moscow and Tokyo have come to understand each other fully and are about to take a resolute step toward a final adjustment of their views on issues left over by the war, including the most intractable issue of demarcating territorial boundaries.

However, translator Kim from the Soviet Information Center, who was simultaneously translating the president's speech at a special booth on the third floor of the main chamber of the House of Representatives, omitted the words "the most intractable issue of demarcating territorial boundaries" at this point. The words were not found in the speech text distributed to the Dietmen. After the president's speech, Michio Watanabe, former chairman of the Policy Affairs Research Council of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party expressed his disappointment, saying that "I hoped for an expression which was a step forward on Japan-Soviet relations in the president's speech." A large number of other dietmen also expressed their discontent over the speech.

Then, why did this grave mistake occur? The Soviet side explained: President Gorbachev hastily added the portion in question to his speech at the last moment. A revised text of the speech was not delivered to translator Kim. It was "no more than a clerical mistake."

At noon on 17 April, shortly before the speech, the Soviet Embassy telephoned the Secretariat of the House of Representatives and said: "We have made a short, but important, revision in the speech. We would like to solicit your understanding." Because of "this prior notification," officials at the Secretariat are receiving a barrage of queries about the omission. They are shamefaced when questioned.

South Korean Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

OW2404060891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0526 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO - South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok arrived in Tokyo on Wednesday for regular consultations with his Japanese counterpart Taro Nakayama.

Lee is to pay a courtesy call on Nakayama later in the evening and is scheduled to hold two rounds of talks with him on Thursday and Friday, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The South Korean foreign minister is also to make a courtesy call on Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Friday.

Yi, who is making his first visit to Japan since he took up his post as foreign minister in December, leaves on Friday for the United States.

Soviet Security Proposals Discussed

OW2404135991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1335 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and his South Korean counterpart Yi Sang-ok concurred Wednesday that it is premature to adopt the Asia-Pacific security proposals made recently in Tokyo by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Officials said the understanding was reached in a 30-minute meeting Wednesday evening, the first of their official talks during Yi's visit.

Yi, who is making his first overseas journey since assuming his post in a cabinet shuffle in December, arrived in Japan earlier in the day for an official visit. After meetings with Nakayama Thursday, he is to return home Friday.

He and Nakayama last met when the Japanese foreign minister accompanied Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to Seoul in January.

Officials said Nakayama took a pessimistic view of Gorbachev's April 17 proposal for military consultations among the Soviet Union, the United States, and Japan, as well as his call for a five-party conference with China and India to discuss creating a multilateral forum on regional security and cooperation.

Nakayama charged that the Soviet approach does not allow for the diversity and complexity of the Asia-Pacific region, as contrasted with Europe, where it was possible to reduce tensions through the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

The problems of the region should be tackled individually, beginning with the tension on the Korean peninsula, the Japan-Soviet territorial dispute over four northern islands, and the Cambodian conflict, Nakayama said.

Officials quoted Yi as saying that South Korea's view of the Soviet Union's regional security cooperation scheme is almost the same as Japan's.

Yi said it is necessary to build the proper conditions for the Soviet plan by resolving such problems as the division of Korea and the antagonism between North and South Korea.

Nakayama, assessing Gorbachev's April 16-19 visit to Japan, said the Soviets and Japanese made no substantial progress on their dispute over a group of islands off Hokkaido occupied by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

He said, however, that the joint communique issued at the end of the six rounds of talks between Kaifu and Gorbachev was significant because it was the first document that contained the Soviet Union's confirmation that the four islands are disputed and that their disposition should be resolved in a peace treaty.

Officials said Nakayama noted that both Kaifu and Gorbachev expressed hope that North Korea would heed its obligations under the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities to guarantee that they are used only for peaceful purposes.

Yi briefed Nakayama on Gorbachev's visit to South Korea, and Japanese officials quoted him as saying his government is considering Gorbachev's unexpected proposal that the two countries draft and sign a treaty of friendship and cooperation the next time he and South Korean President No Tae-u meet.

Officials said Yi assured Nakayama that Seoul intends to discuss the matter with Japan, the United States, and other friendly countries.

Negotiators Suspend U.S. Chip Trade Talks

OW2404140691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1326 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Japanese and U.S. trade negotiators suspended talks on a new bilateral chip agreement Wednesday evening after failing to agree on details of the pact, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) officials said.

The officials said the talks might be resumed later in the evening. If they can come closer to agreement through these talks, a higher-level meeting may be held on Thursday, or possibly Friday, to clinch the pact, the officials said.

The second day of the fourth round of talks for forging a new accord to replace the current semiconductor agreement, which expires at the end of July, dragged on some key issues.

These included whether a 20 percent target share of foreign suppliers in the Japanese market should be included and if the U.S. should lift remaining sanctions against Japan over Tokyo's alleged violation of the current pact, the officials said.

Other topics of the discussion during Wednesday's meeting were differing statistics on chip trade adopted by the two countries and the terms of the new accord, they said.

U.S. Proposal 'Could' Jeopardize GATT Efforts

OW2404085291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0826 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—The United States has made a proposal on trade in services like banking and insurance which could jeopardize efforts to reach a new pact governing financial services under world trade talks, government sources said Wednesday.

The U.S. proposal seeks a system of reciprocity in financial services under which a nation could deny the same treatment to foreign financial institutions if their home countries discriminate unfairly against foreign concerns.

The sources told KYODO News Service that the U.S. offer apparently reflects Washington's desire to give its financial institutions wider access to financial markets in developing countries, which are now tightly regulated and protective against foreign institutions.

The proposal was presented to the Uruguay Round of trade talks, and came under fire from developing nations, Japan, and the European Community (EC) as well, the sources said.

Tokyo and Brussels view it as possibly leading to unilateral action as seen in the controversial 301 Clause of the 1988 U.S. Trade Act, in contrast with multilateral principles promoted by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), or the sponsor of the 107-nation negotiations.

Trade in services is one of 15 sectors covered by the Uruguay Round, which was to end with a package of agreements at a ministerial meeting last December, but has been stalled due chiefly to a dispute between the United States and the EC over how to reduce farm subsidies.

At the December meeting, the United States and the EC agreed to a proposal on trade in services presented jointly by Japan, Canada, Switzerland, and Sweden, which is more favorable to developing nations.

The proposal would allow developing countries to adopt a gradual approach in liberalizing financial markets if the nations cannot open up their market with the same speed as industrial nations.

The Japanese Government sources said there is only a slim possibility that the United States will withdraw its proposal as Washington gives priority to services trade in promoting the Uruguay Round.

Okinawa Residents Block U.S. Forces Truck

OW2304233491 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 22 Apr 91 Evening Edition p 7

[Text] Onna—A live shellfiring exercise was resumed shortly after 0800 on 22 April at the Urban Combat Training Facilities (range 21) on Camp Hansen training field in Onna Village. Previous training was held from 16 to 20 April, immediately after Vice Governor Nakaima conducted a site inspection.

Soldiers of the U.S. Forces [USF] frequently visited the facilities by helicopters shortly after 0800. According to Onna District residents, the scale of the exercise is the largest among recent trainings. No sound of live shellfiring was heard as of 1100. However, the soldiers were busily moving around in the facilities.

Moreover, residents sounded an emergency siren as a USF truck tried to pass an obervation hut in Onna District shortly after 1000. Nearly 100 people gathered and stopped the truck. The truck, after being stopped for nearly one hour, turned around and left.

Onna District Chief Igei furiously said: "It was a measure taken for the first time since July of last year to prevent USF vehicles from passing through. In order to protect the water reservoir of the people in the district, we are firmly determined not to allow USF vehicles to pass through here."

Hungarian Democratic Forum Officials Visit

AU2304102991 Budapest MTI in English 1351 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, 22 Apr (MTI)—The importance of a change in system amid settled circumstances and social tolerance was stressed by Japanese leaders on meeting a delegation from the Hungarian Democratic Forum [HDF] in Tokyo on Monday.

The delegation, consisting of Balazs Horvath, vice-president of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, Lajos Fur, minister of defence, Imre Furmann, HDF's general president, Imre Konya, head of the party.s parliamentary group, and Zoltan Bogardi MP, was invited to the Japanese capital by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

The Japanese partners to the talks included Yasuhiro Nakasone, former prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, former deputy premier currently heading one of Japan's governing party factions, and Johei Kono, president of the Japanese-Hungarian Friendship Society.

Yasuhiro Nakasone said it was necessary "to get through the present storms" to reach a stage of consolidation which would largely influence the approach of Japanese capital.

According to Balazs Horvath, the Japanese leaders also emphasized that Suzuki's investment in Hungary, if successfully implemented, could encourage the formation of other joint ventures as well.

The HDF delegation is scheduled to meet the newly appointed general secretary of the Japanese government party, Keidzo Obuchi, on Tuesday, and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Friday. Further talks are to be held with managers from several noted banks and companies.

Meet With LDP's Obuchi

LD2404043291 Budapest MTI in English 1608 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 (MTI) - The governing Liberal Democratic Party of Japan (LDP) and the Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF) made contact on Tuesday when LDP Secretary-General Keizo Obuchi met a five-member HDF delegation staying in Tokyo at the invitation of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

Keizo Obuchi, who has been invited to Hungary by the HDF, spoke highly of the changes in Hungary, which, he said, would have to go through such trials and tribulations as Japan endured after the Second World War. If Hungary preserves its stability, it will have every chance of coming abreast of Europe, the LDP secretary-general said.

Hungarian Defence Minister Lajos Fur said the LDP secretary- general would make every possible effort to develop bilateral economic relations. Keizo Obuchi, also emphasized that inter-party relations may play an important part in attaining the aims of inter- state co-operation.

Businessmen To Set Up Joint DPRK Panel

OW2304120391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1103 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—A joint Japanese-North Korean economic committee will be set up to strengthen business ties between the two nations, two Japanese trade groups said Tuesday.

The East Asia Trade Research Board, whose members include leading trading houses, and the Japan-(North) Korea Trade Association, which groups 80 trade-related firms, said they have also agreed with Pyongyang's (North) Korea Asia Trade Promotion Council to station representatives in each other's country.

The agreements were reached during a visit by the two Japanese groups to Pyongyang starting April 2.

The North Koreans asked Japan to provide technological assistance to improve their country's infrastructure and to produce trucks.

Pyongyang would use this assistance to develop export industries, and use the earnings to repay its unpaid import bills, the North Korean trade group said.

The Japanese urged Pyongyang to step up its efforts to repay its foreign debt.

The joint economic committee, which could be established as early as early next year, will discuss private-sector economic cooperation.

The two sides agreed to exchange delegations, beginning with the dispatch of a working-level mission by North Korea in June or July.

Japan will send a survey team of managers from trading houses, manufacturers, and other firms to North Korea this autumn, followed by a working-level team in early 1992.

Corporation To Help Mongolia Develop Resources

OW2404090691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—A government corporation said Wednesday it has agreed to assist in the development of nonferrous metal resources in Mongolia.

The Metal Mining Agency of Japan said that under the agreement reached with the Mongolian Government it will cooperate in a three- year study on development projects, starting in the current fiscal year, which began April 1.

Japan will be the first Western nation to participate in the development of nonferrous metals in Mongolia, the corporation said.

It said the exploration will center on a 500,000 square kilometer area in eastern Mongolia, known to have rich deposits of such metals as lead, zinc, copper, and molybdenum.

The corporation said it will soon send a team of five to six experts to the region to conduct a survey at an estimated cost of 300 million yen.

Thai Firm Orders Low-Pollution Power Plant

OW2404075691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0730 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Thailand's largest petrochemical company has ordered a low-pollution, energy-saving power plant worth about 9 billion yen from Japan, Japanese firms announced Wednesday.

The order was placed by the Thai Petrochemical Industry Co. with Mitsui Engineering and Shipbuilding Co., and C. Itoh & Co., a trading firm.

The 54,000 kilowatt capacity plant will be installed at the Thai company's Rayong facility, they said.

The plant, consisting of a coal-burning boiler, a heavy-oil-burning boiler, two steam turbines, and two generators, will be turned over to the Thai company in August 1993.

Special sand placed in the boilers will help burn low-quality coal and other waste materials effectively and eliminate pollutants to reduce air pollution, the Japanese companies said.

Manufactured Goods Imports Up 11.2 Percent in 1990

OW2404115091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1010 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Japan's imports of manufactured goods rose 11.2 percent in 1990 from a year earlier, but their portion of total imports remained flat at 50.3 percent, the semigovernmental Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) said Wednesday.

The pace of growth in imports of manufactured goods represented a slowdown from the 15.5 percent surge in 1989, mainly because of the surge in crude oil prices, JETRO said in a report.

The report, based on customs-cleared trade statistics provided by the Finance Ministry, put the value of imports of manufactured goods at 118,028 million dollars last year.

Passenger cars ranked first on the list of such imports, followed by art and craft, gold products, computers, and integrated circuits, reflecting the strong buying power of Japanese benefitting from the so-called "bubble" in the economy, or asset inflation.

Imports of passenger cars were buoyed by those from Germany, which jumped 54.4 percent to 6.2 billion dollars, the report showed, while revealing a 64.6 percent gain in art and craft, mainly paintings.

The swift growth in art and craft imports was partly accelerated by the purchase by the honorary chairman of a major paper manufacturer of a Van Gogh painting for 82.5 million dollars.

In 1990, Japan imported more paintings from France than any other country, making them the largest French export item to Japan.

Crude Oil Imports Rise 13 Percent in Fiscal 1990

OW2404074291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0646 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Japan's crude oil imports in fiscal 1990 surged 13.1 percent from the previous year to 1.5 billion barrels, fueled by an increase in domestic oil refining to make up for declining imports of oil products, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Wednesday.

The run-up in crude imports was also ascribed to brisk demand from electricity utilities and chemical firms.

The largest supplier of crude oil to Japan was the United Arab Emirates, which accounted for 21.4 percent of the total imports.

Other major suppliers were Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Iran, and China.

Imports from Middle East producers accounted for 71.5 percent of the total.

Domestic production of fuel oil in fiscal 1990, which ended March 31, rose 10.5 percent to 1.19 billion barrels, reflecting increased domestic refining.

Imports of fuel oil in the year came to 254.56 million barrels, down 18.1 percent.

The decline was attributed to the Persian Gulf crisis, which choked off the international market for fuel oil.

Domestic sales of fuel oil rose 2.9 percent to 1.37 billion barrels, with sales of gasoline, jet fuel oil, light oil, and heavy oil hitting record highs.

Crude imports in March soared 40.5 percent to 172.94 million barrels, MITI said.

The sharp upswing was due to an increase in domestic processing of oil and special demand for meeting the scheduled hike in private- sector oil reserves from April, the ministry said.

Production of fuel oil in March rose 9.8 percent to 111.57 million barrels, while imports of such oil products as gasoline and heavy oil fell 35.6 percent to 16.90 million barrels.

Domestic sales of fuel oil in the month edged up 0.6 percent to 126.66 million barrels.

North Korea

Editorial Views Unified Table Tennis Team

SK2404102791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today says in an editorial article that the first Korea unified table tennis team of the North and the South is participating in the 41st world table tennis championships, which is an event unprecedented in the history of division and an auspicious event of the nation that might be called the realisation of reunification in the sports field.

The article notes:

Very significant is, indeed, the participation of a unified team of the North and the South in the 41st world table tennis championships.

With this the sportsmen of the North and the South rejoined the severed bonds to display the resourcefulness and talent of the nation by pooling their efforts. This also gives new confidence and inspiration to the entire fellow countrymen who have turned out in a grand reunification march in the 90s and shows to the world people that our nation is one and so is our country.

The paricipation of the Korea unified team in the championships will have a good influence on the world progressive people who want peace and peaceful reunification of Korea and contribute to the development of world table tennis, too.

On the occasion of the current table tennis championships, the entire fellow countrymen want to see that the North and the South form unified teams for other major international games in the future and collaboration is realized not only in sports but in all other domains and this leads to reunification. Their desire must be realised.

Reactions to South Minister's Remarks Continue

Pak Su-tong Denounces Remarks

SK2404065691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—Pak Su-tong, chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea, issued a press statement Tuesday branding the bellicose utterances of the South Korean military boss as anti-national, anti-reunification criminal remarks.

The words of the South Korean puppet defence minister that "we will send commandoes to surprise and destroy the North's atomic reactor facilities" are not a slip of the tongue at all but a declaration of war against us, which openly revealed the ambition of the No Tae-u ruling group for "unification by prevailing over communism", the chairman stressed.

Pak Su-tong said: So long as such bellicose elements as the puppet defence minister who are running riot to impose the scourges of war upon our nation and wreck peace on the Korean peninsula and security of the world, are left alone, dialogue between the North and the South and the realization of peace and peaceful reunification of the country are impossible.

Such warmaniacs as the South Korean military boss opposing peace and peaceful reunification of the country must be removed from our nation at once.

Peak In-chun Views Remarks

SK2404111591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Pyonyang April 24 (KCNA)—Paek In-chun, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea, made public a statement to the press on April 23 condemning the outburst of the South Korean puppet defence minister threatening to surprise and destroy the North's "atomic reactor facilities", arrogantly bringing forward the problem of nuclear inspection on the North, as the most undisguised challenge to the desire of the fellow countrymen for reunification.

Branding his outburst as an anti-national blast which can never be tolerated, he sternly denounced it in the name of all the writers and artists of Korea.

Although the South Korean rulers are making a poor excuse, stating that the military boss' bellicose outburst was cancelled and he made a slip of the tongue, they cannot conceal their intention to invade the North, he said, and went on:

We will wage a vigorous struggle with writings, songs and art works in order to expose the dirty war confab of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities and defend peace.

Parliamentary Group's Stand Queried

SK2404072491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 24 Apr 91

["Act Patronizing Aggressive Blast Against North"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—The "chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee of the National Assembly" of South Korea, who is due here to participate in an international conference at the head of a "delegation of the parliamentary group" said "there is no need to express its stand" towards the puppet defence minister's utterances threatening to surprise and destroy the North's "atomic reactor facilities" as he himself stated what he said was "misrepresented" and the "government officially denied his words."

The South Korean "National Assembly" refuses to express its stand towards the outburst of the military boss, defending him in every way, NODONG SINMUN today says, and adds:

This bespeaks that it shares the anti-peace, anti-dialogue and anti-reunification stand with the authorities.

The news analyst further says:

The South Korean authorities are claiming that the puppet defence minister made a "slip of tongue" and his utterances were "misrepresented". This is nothing but a poor excuse which is not enough to persuade others or to cover up their already-revealed criminal intention to surprise the North.

We hold that as the South Korean "parliamentary group delegation" wants to visit Pyongyang, the stand towards the military boss' provocative outburst must be clarified. If it persistently takes the anti-peace, anti-reunification road, without discarding, together with the authorities, the hostile feelings against its dialogue partner, how can it have the face to come to Pyongyang and meet with us?

It is apparent to everybody that with one side of dialogue intending to surprise its partner by force of arms, mutual visits and dialogue are impossible and unnecessary and, even though dialogue gets under way, it is impossible to discuss the questions of peace and reunification of the country in a straightforward way.

If the South Korean "National Assembly" takes the anti-peace, anti-reunification stand against the nation's desire and aspiration, acting a marionette of the authorities, it can never escape all the fellow countrymen's denunciation.

U.S.-South Wartime Host Nations Pact Viewed

SK2404111191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—The Wartime Host Nations Support "Agreement" which the United States and the South Korean authorities are going to sign is a product of conspiracy between aggression and treachery for war preparations against the North and a brigandish and humiliating document, says MINJU CHOSON today.

It is the invariable design of the U.S. imperialists to invade the northern half of Korea with South Korea as the springboard and, further, invade other Asian countries to gratify their wild ambition for world supremacy, the news analyst notes, and stresses:

It is for the fulfilment of this aggressive design that the U.S. imperialists have staged the "Team Spirit" military exercises, a preliminary war and test nuclear war, every year from 1976 with the mobilization of the U.S. forces in South Korea and the puppet army and aggression forces based in the U.S. mainland and the Pacific region and huge sophisticated military equipment.

The U.S. imperialists, through the signing of the "agreement", intend to obtain a legal ground for the unlimited "rights" of the U.S. aggression forces to unilaterally demand of the South Korean puppets everything needed for the military purpose in peacetime or in wartime. The South Korean puppets, on their part, seek to prolong their days under the patronage of the U.S. imperialist aggressors, their master, and furthermore, gratify their wild design to "unify the country by prevailing over communism" by leaving the whole land of South Korea to the U.S. imperialists and zealously taking part in their war moves as a shock brigade, bowing to their aggressive and brigandish demand.

It is not a casual coincidence that the report about the document of aggression and treachery between the master and servant came at a time when the South Korean puppet defence minister made a belligerent blast threatening to "surprise and destroy the North's atomic reactor facilities" and the U.S. military authorities prattled that the Korean peninsula is the "region fraught with the greatest danger of a local war after the Gulf".

All the facts show that the scheme of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets to conclude the "agreement" is a criminal act increasing the danger of a war against the North on the Korean peninsula and an unpardonable aggressive move going against peace and reunification of Korea.

U.S. 21, 22 Apr Exercises in South Reported

SK2404061191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce and Navy Commands staged ground and air joint strike exercises aimed at surprise attack on the northern half of Korea with the Korean peninsula as the operational theatre on April 21 and 22, according to military sources.

Mobilized in the provocative aerial military exercises for two days which were staged in the sky above Wonju, Oeyondo, Chonju, Yoju, Chungju, Kunni and Chechon were formations of FA-18 warplanes based in Iwakuni of Japan, and F-16, F-4, F-5, F-86, A-37, OA-10 warplanes belonging to the U.S. 7th Airforce and the puppet airforce, more than 360 in all.

On the 21st, the U.S. imperialists introduced P-3 plane into the Osan Airfield from the Oahu Island base on the Pacific and then continually deployed KC-10, OA-10 planes, etc. in the Osan Airforce Base from the U.S. mainland and the Pacific bases.

They also brought to the Osan and Kunsan Airfields formations of C-141 and C-130 planes massively loaded with operational equipment from the U.S. mainland and the Pacific bases and transported them into bases on April 21 and 22.

And the South Korean puppets massively sent armed forces of infantry and mechanized units to Tongduchon and Kapyong areas on April 22 to stage an offensive operation against the North in coordination with dozens of F-16, F-4, F-5 and A-37 planes.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists brought U-2, RC-12, RV-1, etc. in succession to the air above the Military Demarcation Line for an aerial espionage on the depth and inland area and frontline area of our side.

A total of 1,360 military planes of different types were mobilized in the exercises against the North in the sky of South Korea on April 21 and 22.

Kim Il-song Receives Greetings From SRV

SK2404073091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received congratulations on his birthday from party and state leading cadres of Vietnam.

Congratulations were conveyed to an official concerned by Nguyen Van Trong, ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Korea.

The ambassador said that he was authorized to convey congratulations of Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and Comrade Vo Chi Cong, president of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, to President Kim Il-song on his birthday.

Meeting Commemorates 59th Anniversary of KPA

SK2404114691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1056 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—A national meeting was held here today to mark the 59th anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army (KPA).

Present at the meeting were O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], vice-chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK and minister of People's Armed Forces, Yon Hyong-muk, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and premier of the Administration Council, Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol, members of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and vice-presidents, and senior officials of the party and the government.

Foreign diplomatic envoys and military attaches of foreign embassies here were present on invitation.

General Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK, vice-chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK and chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army, made a report at the meeting.

The reporter said:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song founded the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (KPRA) on April 25, 1932, that is, 59 years ago. With this the Korean people came to have their true revolutionary Army and victoriously wage a struggle for the independence of the country and the liberation of people on a new, higher stage.

Our revolutionary Armed Forces have traversed a glorious course by achieving the liberation of the country at the cost of blood and firmly defending the party's cause with arms and a proud course by performing immortal exploits which will shine long in the annals of the country with unbounded loyalty and devotion to the party and the leader, the country and the people.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has said:

"The valuable gains of our revolution and all the victories and achievements of our people in the revolution and construction are associated with the imperishable feats performed by our revolutionary Armed Forces and are dyed with the red blood shed by the anti-Japanese guerrillas and the officers and men of the People's Army."

The KPRA reliably ensured the victorious advance of the Korean revolution from a firm chuche stand in the whole period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, conducted numerous superb operations and battles and finally defeated the Japanese imperialist aggressors and brilliantly accomplished the historic cause of national liberation.

The Korean People's Army which was developed and strengthened after the liberation of the country as a regular army directly succeeding the KPRA creditably discharged its honorable mission in the building of a new society and in the great Fatherland Liberation War.

The KPA reliably defended the security of the country and the people, smashing the ceaseless attempts of the enemy at aggression and war provocation in the postwar period.

The officers and men of the KPA took charge of the most difficult posts of socialist construction in high spirits and worked devotedly to build numerous edifices of eternal value under the motto "When the party is determined, we can do anything!"

Under the tested leadership of our party, the modelling of the whole Army on the chuche idea has been promoted vigorously and the work of training the whole Army into a cadre army, modernizing the whole Army, arming the entire people and fortifying the whole country has been accelerated. As a result, the KPA has been armed with modern weapons and combat and technical equipment, each of the servicemen has become a match for a hundred foes, equipped with a deep military knowledge and technology and chuche tactics of war, strong physique and the marksmanship worthy of a crack shot and an all-people defence system has been firmly established with the KPA at the core.

All the proud achievements and feats of our revolutionary Armed Forces are the victory of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's military idea of self-reliance in defence and a precious fruition of the outstanding and tested leadership of our party, the reporter stressed.

Referring to the reunification question of our country, he said that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities, ignoring our peace package and reunification proposals, failed to show any affirmative response to our sincere efforts and, on the contrary, staged again the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises to deliberately block the smooth progress of the North-South high-level talks which had been arranged with much efforts and bring the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

All the more grave is that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities recently carried out espionages on the northern half of Korea and, at the same time, committed vicious military provocations and hostile acts in succession by firing guns into the portion of our side in the Military Demarcation Line area. They are inciting war atmosphere to the extreme pitch, threatening to "throw commando units into the North and surprise and destroy its atomic reactor facilities."

The bellicose outburst of the South Korean authorities this time revealed once again to the world their sinister colour as a group of anti-national criminals who are only seeking "unification by prevailing over communism" with armed forces, remaining indifferent to the nation and the future of the coming generations.

The U.S. troops and nuclear weapons must be withdrawn from South Korea and the Korean peninsula be made a nuclear-free peace zone in order to remove the danger of nuclear war and preserve peace on the Korean peninsula and realize the peaceful reunification of the country.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities mistake our peace efforts for signs of weakness and persistently take the road of war of aggression, our revolutionary Armed Forces and the entire people will turn out and fight as one man to safeguard the sacred socialist motherland and precious gains of revolution and retaliate on the aggressors a thousand-fold.

Stressing that we must reliably defend our party and revolution from the attack and invasion of the imperialists and all the class enemies and firmly guarantee the revolutionary cause of chuche by force of arms, Choe Kwang outlined the tasks to further strengthen the People's Army.

We must further strengthen the People's Army politically, ideologically and in military technique, thoroughly establish chuche in the building of the Army and all the fields of military activities, definitely guarantee the leadership of the party so as to step up the modelling of the whole Army on the chuche idea.

The party's leadership over the People's Army is vital to the People's Army and is a decisive guarantee of all its victories, the reporter stressed, and said:

The officers and men of the People's Army and the People's Security Forces must carry into practice the oath they took to the party centre at any cost, bearing deep in mind the handwritings "Glory [illegible] the revolutionary Armed Forces faithful to our party!" sent by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to the officers and men of the KPA Unit 525 and thus add lustre to the honor of the revolutionary Armed Forces boundlessly faithful to our party.

The officers and men of the People's Army and the People's Security Forces and the members of the worker-peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards should repudiate the slightest idleness and indolence, closely watch the enemy's movement at all times with a high revolutionary vigilance and keep themselves in full preparedness for action to cope with any unexpected situation.

Paper Extols Army Loyalty to Leader, Party

SK2404113091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—In Korea the party and the Army form an indestructible, integrated whole and the party's cause is steadfastly defended by the Armed Forces.

The officers and men of the Unit 525 of the Korean People's Army sent a letter to Comrade Kim Chong-il pledging themselves to be loyal to him and he sent them his handwritings "Glory to the revolutionary armed forces faithful to our party!" this is another proud example showing that our party and Army form a great integrated whole.

NODONG SINMUN today says this in a by-lined article titled "Our People's Army Is Revolutionary Armed Forces Boundlessly Loyal to the Party and Leader".

Noting that our party and the People's Army are a great integrated whole, the article says:

It is the unshakable will of the entire People's Army soldiers to remain boundlessly faithful and devoted to the party and the revolutionary cause whenever and wherever and become a fortress and shield for steadfastly defending the party and the leader with arms.

The noble ideological and moral traits prevalent in our Army clearly prove that it will always fight staunchly in whatever ordeals, shouting, "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il!" as the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners defended respected General Kim Il-song at the cost of their lives at the dawn of the Korean revolution, shouting "Long live the great Comrade Han Pyol!"

Today our People's Army has become an ideological and purposeful, integrated whole of true revolutionary soldiers who take the idea of the party and the leader as their world outlook.

The Army is replete only with our party's idea and with the spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality displayed by the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters in fulfilling the orders given by the respected commander Comrade Kim Il-song at the cost of their lives.

Our People's Army accepts the party's plan and intention as vital requirements and devotedly struggles to unconditionally implement them under the slogan "When the party is determined, we can do anything!"

A command system and an iron discipline have been thoroughly established so that the whole Army acts as one body on the orders and instructions of the party and the leader. This is a proud look of our People's Army which is in perfect harmony with the party.

Our People's Army has become the purest integrated whole in ideology and purpose, that leaves no room for the slightest ideological elements contrary to the party's ideology and a powerful revolutionary Army the whole of which rises up with formidable force to fulfil the orders of the party.

There is no force on earth to match the invincible might of our People's Army which forms an integrated whole in ideology and purpose with the party.

Our People's Army is firmly preparing itself ideologically to accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche under the guidance of the party and the leader.

It is the unanimous faith of all the officers and men of the People's Army to always share the destiny with the party in whatever rigorous trials.

Today, in our country, the unity between the party and the Army has become all the more solid with the advance of the revolution. It is entirely because of the greatness of the leader who guides the revolutionary Armed Forces and the absolute trust and boundless loyalty of the entire People's Army officers and men to the leader of the revolution.

For this our party and Army will be steadily consolidated and developed as a great integrated whole.

The key to the invincibility and victory of our-style socialism lies, in a word, in the unity of the party, the Army and the people.

Our party is devotedly struggling for the happiness and interests of the popular masses under the slogan "We serve the people!" While our People's Army and people are true to the party's leadership, making the slogan "When the party is determined, we can do anything!" their faith.

The great party which has struck its roots deep in the People's Army and among the popular masses and the Army and people who remain faithful to the party's leadership—this is the foundation of the solid socialism of our style and the source of the might that makes it possible to convincingly cover the road of its development, overcoming any adversities and trials.

As long as there are the revolutionary leadership of the party which advances under the uplifted banner of the revolution, the banner of socialism, and the revolutionary Armed Forces which defend the party, our socialism will give full play to its attraction and invincible vitality.

The article stresses:

All the officers and men of the People's Army now entrust their destiny entirely to the party and the leader and are determined to overcome rigorous trials together with the party.

To defend the party and the leader at the cost of their lives under any circumstances and discharge their duty as the revolutionary soldiers of the party is the unanimous oath made by the entire officers and men of the People's Army with faith to the great leader.

Our People's Army officers and men will keep their pledge and exalt their honor and dignity still further as the revolutionary Armed Forces of the party.

Science, Technology Group Anniversary Marked

SK2404072191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—A meeting marking the 45th founding anniversary of the Korean General Federation of Science and Technology (April 14, 1946) was held here Tuesday.

Yi Cha-pang, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation, in his report stressed that the course traversed by the federation was a glorious course demonstrating the validity and vitality of the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea toward intellectuals. He stated that the scientists and technicians have made great contributions to the implementation of the party's line of building an independent national economy, development of the science and technology of the country and powerful acceleration of the socialist economic construction.

It is a task of scientists and technicians to develop the country's science and technology to a higher stage and do their bit for the acceleration of socialist economic construction and technical revolution, he said. He called upon them to further develop advanced science and technology and direct efforts to the development of science and technology of mining, power, metal and machine-building industries and railway transport and light industry.

KCNA Review of 24 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK2404105191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0955 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a report that Vietnamese party and state leading cadres extended congratulations to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on his birthday.

The great leader President Kim Il-song was presented with a gift by the Portuguese Central Committee for the Study of Kimilsungism, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN carries a letter to President Kim Il-song from the participants in the Austrian national seminar on "Chuche Idea at Present in Europe" and an account of the seminar.

The paper rounds up world public voices under the title "President Kim Il-song Is the Great Leader Who Built a Man-Centered Society."

A congratulatory message of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea was sent to the Pyongyang textile machine factory on the lapse of 30 years since the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il performed the undying feats in the factory, says the paper. Given in the paper is an account of a meeting held on this occasion.

The three-revolution exhibition which will show the successes in the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, is being built at a fast speed in Pyongyang, reports the paper.

On the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army NODONG SINMUN devotes one whole page to the article headlined "Our People's Army Is Revolutionary Armed Forces Boundlessly Loyal to the Party and the Leader" and MINJU CHOSON carries an article titled "The Korean People's Army Is Revolutionary Armed Forces of Our Party That Has Traversed Along the Road of Victory and Glory."

Under the block-letter titles headlined "Glory to the Revolutionary Armed Forces Loyal to Our Party!" and "Glory to Officers and Men of the People's Army, Fortress of the Motherland and Shield of the Country!" papers carry articles and photographs introducing the heroic Korean People's Army reliably defending the socialist country as the army of the leader and the army of the party.

Papers report that the president of the council and secretary general of the Inter-Parliamentary Union arrived to participate in the 85th inter-parliamentary conference and talks were held here between the delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and the parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Papers inform the readers that the DPRK shooters gave a good account of themselves at the Asian clay target shooting championships.

Printed in the press is a letter sent by Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the North side's headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification (Pomminnyon), to Yun I-sang, chairman of the overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon, calling for jointly supporting the struggle to form the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon in the North and overseas.

Chairmen of the C.C., the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea and the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea issued statements to the press denouncing the recent bellicose outburst of the South Korean puppet defence minister threatening a war against the North, according to the press.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with a commentary denouncing the South Korean "National Assembly" for protecting the outburst of the puppet defence minister against the North.

Foreign news media reported that South Korean people and students staged demonstrations against Soviet Preside Gorbachev's visit to South Korea, saying "South Korean students condemn Gorbachev's visit, throwing rotten eggs to his picture" and "the prestige of the Soviet Union fell down by the South Korean visit", says the press.

Under the title "Gorbachev's visit to Japan failed" NODONG SINMUN carries news that foreign media said the visit to Japan of Soviet president resulted in failure.

Dailies inform the readers that Chinese Foreign Ministry rejected a report of the U.S. newspaper "WASHINGTON TIMES" that China helped Algeria in developing nuclear weapons, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions issued a notice on conducting activities to mark May Day and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam declared that the people of Vietnam will remain loyal to the idea of Lenin and Ho Chi Minh.

Given in the press is an account of a celebration meeting held in Moscow to mark the 121st birth anniversary of Lenin.

Syrian president demanded fair peace in the Middle East, president of Kenya appealed to the South African authorities to abolish the apartheid, a Malaysian minister called not for yielding to the pressure of the United States, and industrial production is decreasing in Hungary, says NODONG SINMUN.

The paper reports about the building of new Asia in Laos [punctuation as received] Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Bangladesh.

The paper gives an analysis to serious economic crisis in Britain.

South Korea

Minister Explains Comments on 'Preemptive Raid'

SK2404131691 Seoul YONHAP in English 1301 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—South Korean Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku said Wednesday that he was sorry for having caused trouble in and out of the country by openly talking of a preemptive raid on North Korean nuclear facilities.

Testifying before lawmakers in an interpellation session, Yi said, "When I talked of a strong punitive action against North Korea's nuclear facilities, I did it with the premise in mind that North Korea provoked the South militarily."

"What I really tried to mean was to urge Pyongyang to give up development of nuclear weapons."

Warning that North Korea was expected to possess nuclear weapons in the not distant future, Yi said, "The seriousness of North Korea's military threat cannot be too much emphasized."

He observed that North Korea's nuclear armament would jeopardize the existing military balance and narrow South Korea's choice of political, diplomatic and military countermeasures.

The chief defense official also said the government would make all available political and diplomatic efforts to deter a war if North Korea comes to arm itself with nuclear weapons.

Yi added that South Korea would take "utmost effort" in alliance with the United States to prevent a war in case Pyongyang developed and possessed nuclear weapons. He did not elaborate further.

Remark Not Linked to IPU Meeting

SK2404095691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0938 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—North Korea on Wednesday informed the South Korean National Assembly of its decision not to link recent controversial remarks by South Korean Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku to its participation in the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Pyongyang.

North Korean liaison officials told their South Korean counterparts in a meeting at Panmunjom that Pyongyang still regretted the National Assembly's refusal to announce an official position regarding Yi's remarks but that it had no intention to link this to Seoul's participation in the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) meeting, officials at the South-North dialogue secretariat said.

The North Korean side made it clear that the trouble caused by Yi's remarks had no "direct connection" with the South Korean IPU delegation's visit to the North, according to a secretariat official.

Defense Minister Yi told a group of Korean editors on April 12 that the South would attack North Korean nuclear facilities if the North refused to open them to international inspection.

Liaison officials of both sides met Wednesday morning and agreed that the 25-member South Korean delegation would drive to Pyongyang, passing through the truce village of Panmunjom at 9 A.M. on Saturday and returning on May 5, they said.

The IPU meeting is slated for April 29 to April 4. [dates as received]

They contacted twice, on April 8 and April 11, to reach agreements on installing five direct phone lines between Seoul and Pyongyang and allowing the South Koreans to attend religious services.

List of IPU Meeting Participants Exchanged

SK2404063091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0612 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—North Korea will allow South Korea to take part in a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Pyongyang next week despite anger at the South Korean defense minister for saying a commando raid was planned for North Korean nuclear facilities, officials at the South-North dialogue office said Wednesday.

Liaison officials from both Koreas met at the truce village of Panmunjom Wednesday morning and exchanged a list of participants and a written guarantee of the safety of the South Koreans while in Pyongyang, they said.

Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku's remark would not hamper participation in the IPU session, due April 27 to May 5, they quoted a North Korean liaison official as saying.

Yi told Korean editors April 12 that the South would attack North Korean nuclear facilities in an "Entebbe-like raid" if the North refused to open the facilities to international inspection.

There is great international concern that Pyongyang could have nuclear weapons within three or four years, and that it has nuclear-capable Scud missiles.

The liaison officials agreed the South Korean delegation would stay at Chumsan Guest House in Pyongyang and spend two days touring Mt. Kumkang. A dinner party will be hosted jointly by Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the Unification Policy Committee at the (North Korean) Supreme People's Assembly, and Rep. Pak Chong-su of South Korea.

The officials will meet again Thursday to set the itinerary of the South Korean delegation, including the trip to Mt. Kumkang.

'Isolated' South IPU Group Quarters Possible

SK2404011591 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 24 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] It is reported that 160 member nations will attend the 85th Congress of the International Parliamentary Union [IPU] slated from 29 April in Pyongyang. It was learned on 23 April that the quarters for the delegations of South Korea and the United States were not designated up to now and there is a great possibility that their quarters will be designated in an isolated [kyongni] place from that of other delegations. Thus, the government, in the liaison officials' contact slated for 26 April in Panmunjom, will demand that the North Korean side designate either Koryo Hotel or Potonggang Hotel as the quarters for the South Korean delegation.

North's Potential for Nuclear Weapons Analyzed

SK2404020891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0152 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—North Korea is just three or four years away from adding nuclear weapons to its arsenal, assuming completion of its third nuclear reactor and nuclear fuel recycling plant in 1992, a North Korean affairs expert said Wednesday.

North Korea is building a third reactor, which will produce nuclear fuel, and a recycling plant in Yongbyon, an area [of] North Pyongyang, and they are likely to be in operation in 1992, said the expert, who declined to be identified.

Because it takes two or three years to put together a nuclear device, North Korea can have a nuclear capability in 1994 or 1995, he said.

When the reactor and recycling plant are completed, North Korea will be able to produce 28 kilograms of plutonium annually, enough to build two or three 20-kiloton bombs. It was a 20-kiloton bomb that destroyed Nagasaki in 1945.

Unlike the first reactor, which was imported from the Soviet Union, the second and third reactors were built with North Korean technology and are fitted to turn out plutonium, he said.

Whereas normal nuclear power plants use enriched uranium for fuel, the North Korean reactors use natural uranium to produce plutonium.

North Korea started construction of a 30,000-kilowatt second reactor in 1980 and completed it in February 1987. It began work on the 200,000-kw third reactor in 1985 for completion next year.

In addition to the construction of nuclear reactors, North Korea has tested detonators, a basic step toward production of nuclear devices, 80 times between 1983 and 1987.

North Korea's first reactor, he said, was introduced from the Soviet Union in 1965 for study and research purposes.

Deposits of natural uranium in North Korea are estimated at 26 million tons, of which 4 million tons is recoverable.

North Korea also began building a uranium refining plant and nuclear fuel recycling plant in Pyongsan, Hwanghae Province, in 1985, according to the source.

Procedures for Inter-Korean Exchanges Simplified

SK2004030691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0229 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will simplify port procedures for ships sailing between South and North Korea to expedite inter-Korean trade amid a growing prospect of exchanges, an official of the Korea Maritime and Port Administration (KMPA) said Saturday.

"Considering the prospects for direct and indirect inter-Korean exchange of materials, the government decided to revise the current enforcement of the ordinance of the Open Port Control Act in such a way that vessels wanting to sail between the two nations will need to get only shipping service permission from the unification minister," said the official, who demanded anonymity.

Currently, shipowners must submit an application for docking and sailing to the local KMPA chief and he decides whether to issue a license after thorough consultation with the Agency for National Security and Planning and other pertinent authorities.

Under the revision, the unification minister can approve an application after consultation with the ministries concerned if it is accompanied by official ministry forms.

South Korea is to ship rice to North Korea in a direct barter trade. It also imported potatoes and cement from North Korea via a third party.

Credit Account for Trade With North Viewed

SK2404091491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0900 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—The government will try to continue the direct inter-Korean trade begun by Doosung Co. and Cheonji Trading Co. of the South and Kumgangsan Trading and Development Corp. of the North, Deputy Prime Minister Choe Ho-chung told the National Assembly Wednesday.

Choe, who is also national unification minister, said there had been no more applications for direct trade with the North but there were 71 for indirect trade worth 76.88 million dollars by the end of March.

A credit account between South and North Korea is necessary to help develop sustained inter-Korean trade and the government would make continued efforts to reach an agreement with the North on the account, he said.

Trading Company Director Discusses North Trade

OW2004053491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0333 GMT 20 Apr 91

[By Kim Chang-Yong]

[Text] Seoul, April 20 KYODO—By making the most of North Korea's economic problems, Seoul is taking the lead in what is seen as the first gradual attempt at rapport with Pyongyang, and is reaping some fruit for its efforts, government and business officials say.

The government last week permitted a private trading company to ship 5,000 tons of rice to the North, a spokesman for Seoul's Unification Board announced. The decision was made by the South Korean Government's South-North Exchange and Cooperation Committee, at a meeting chaired by Choe Ho-chung, deputy prime minister for national unification.

Although negotiations on the exact date and method of delivery are still going on in Tokyo and Hong Kong, Cheonji Trading Co. will ship the rice soon to Nampo, in the North, officials said. The rice will be swapped for 30,000 tons of anthracite coal and 11,000 tons of North Korean cement.

More than 170 products secretly have been traded between the two governments since Seoul opened the door for economic deals with the North shortly after the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. The deals have been approved by the South-North exchange committee.

As of March 31, seven items have been shipped North, worth 7.2 million dollars. Seoul has allowed 166 items to be imported from North Korea, worth 62.8 million dollars.

The rice deal, however, was the first that Pyongyang allowed the South to publicize before it was shipped, the unification spokesman said.

On July 27 last year, the North received about 700 tons of rice, donated by Christian societies for the world's needy. The donation was arranged by Cheonji chairman Yu San-yul, a prominent Christian businessman.

Pyongyang, however, threatened to return the rice late last year when news of it was leaked to the media. For the same reason, the North earlier rejected construction equipment donated by Chung Chu-yung, founder of the Hyundai Business Group, which he offered after he was able to visit his hometown in the North.

The North's shift on publicity concerning the rice deal may be an indication of how serious its food shortage is, some North Korea watchers say. Seoul administration officials have reported in the past that North Korea has suffered three years of poor harvests.

Cheonji's Yu said his trading house, a small company created in November 1990, will send 100,000 tons of rice North by the end of the year. At a press conference Wednesday, he said the North has asked for 500,000 tons of rice in contacts with Korean-born American businesswoman Pak Ryung-yun, who has a joint venture company with the Pyongyang Kumgangsan International Co.

To avoid embarrassing the North Korean Government, the rice will be packaged as being northern grown and will be shipped by a vessel from another country, Yu said.

The rice deal follows a clandestine agreement to swap South Korean consumer goods for North Korean raw materials last December, a Unification Board official confirmed publicly on Wednesday, after his "off-the-record" briefing on the matter was reported by a South Korean newspaper.

In the 2.3 million dollar deal, the Dusung Co., a medium-sized trading company, will ship refrigerators, color television sets and textiles to the North through Kumgangsan International. The products will be traded for 1.3 million dollars worth of artifacts, handicrafts, zinc ingots and cement. The North will pay for the rest of the goods in cash.

The first shipment from the North arrived in Pusan, South Korea's biggest port, in February, and is undergoing security checks, Dusung President Hu Yong-pan has said.

A Dusung director, Kim Yong-sun, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE on Friday that his company is working to expand direct trade with the North.

Encouraged by the rice barter, the Trade and Industry Ministry on Thursday presented a list of recommended items to be traded across the border. The items on the export list include rice, now in surplus in the South, machinery, daily necessities and home appliances. The import list includes North Korean scrap iron, pig iron, zinc ingot, cement and marine products.

Seoul has insisted that economic cooperation and personal exchanges are crucial to building trust between the two governments for eventual unification.

It regards shipments between the North and the South as internal trade and imposes no tariffs. The administration also has earmarked 20 billion won (about 28 million dollars) for compensation of any losses that may occur in inter-Korean trade this year.

"We are not sure whether the North's agreement on barter trade means it's turning its longstanding posture into a pragmatic one or just a makeshift step to ease grave consumer shortages. We are closely watching the trend," said Choe Mun-hyun, assistant unification minister.

More Reportage on Economic Exchange With North

SK2204090691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0723 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 22 (YONHAP)—A South Korean firm opened a new way of inter-Korean economic exchanges by ordering socks at a North Korean firm on the basis of original equipment manufacturing for export to third countries, trade sources said Monday.

Kolon International Corp. has recently concluded a contract with the North Korea Chosun Textile Co., under which the southern firm is to supply raw- and secondary-materials needed for the production of socks to the North over the next five years and export finished goods to the European Community [EC] countries, the sources said.

The chief of the planning department of the firm, a trading arm of the Kolon Business Group, however, denied in a telephone interview that such a deal existed with North Korea.

After getting government approval for the project, the sources said, Kolon will make its first shipment of raw materials, such as spun and rubber fibers, labels and corporate logo to the North next month and export about 75 percent of the products to Germany and the rest to other EC countries.

Under the contract, Kolon will not pay cost for the socks production. Instead, 25 million U.S. dollars North Korea owes Kolon, incurred when it bought machinery from Kolon late last year, will do the job of settling accounts, the sources said, adding third-country vessels will be used for both the shipment of raw materials and the goods between the two halves of the country.

Low average hourly wage of North Korean worker compared with that of a South Korean worker and easier accessibility to markets with the origin of North Korea, which can skirt EC quota restrictions on South Korea, have prompted the deal, according to the sources.

Kolon secured a payment guarantee from a North Korean bank, only known as "Kumsung," in case North Korea fails to turn out socks as agreed or pay the machinery debt.

From October 1988, when Seoul's guidelines for inter-Korean trade went into effect, to March this year, the amount of goods exchanged between both sides of the divided nation totaled 92.792 million U.S. dollars in 203 cases on an approval basis. For the first three months this year, it was 43.841 million dollars, exceeding 25.61 million dollars registered last year.

Minister on Resumption of Joint Sports Talks

SK2304135191 Seoul YONHAP in English 1335 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Chiba, April 23 (YONHAP)—South Korean Sports and Youth Minister Pak Chol-on predicted Tuesday the inter-Korean sports talks could be resumed at the end of June or in July and formation of a single Korean team in Albertville Winter Olympics and Barcelona Summer Olympics in 1992 would be high on the agenda of the talks.

Pak, who is here to encourage the unified Korean table tennis team in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships, told reporters that he would officially propose the talks to the North Korea Olympic Committee Chairman Kim Yu-sun.

He said, however, "another round of the inter-Korean sports talks would not be available until late June or early July as the sports societies of both South and North Korea would further be preoccupied with the international table tennis event and formation of a single Korean youth soccer team in June."

He hinted at the possibility of a bid to form a single Korean team in summer and winter olympics in 1992 hitting a snag. He said, "we will try our best to form a single team in the olympics if the sport talks are resumed, but the process and procedure of forming the unified team are expected to be much complicated in view of the characteristics of the olympics."

Asked if he will visit Pyongyang early next month when a test game of the Korean single youth soccer team is to be held, Pak replied, "The South Korean youth soccer team's trip to Pyongyang is now under discussion among the agencies concerned. My visit will not be decided until May 26 when we are to notify the North Korean authorities of the list of our team's officials and players."

He went on to say that he would be willing to meet with North Korean sports officials, including Kim Hyong-chin, head of the North Korean table tennis team, and frankly discuss the inter-Korean sports exchanges if he was given a chance during his stay here.

Pak is to attend the opening ceremony of the world table tennis championships and encourage the Korean residents in Japan both from pro-Seoul organization Mindan and pro-Pyongyang organization Chochongnyon jointly cheering the Korean team.

South Company Hires Commentator From North

SK2404091591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0847 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—A North Korean official has been hired by South Korea's MBC [Myonghwa Broadcasting Company]-TV as a commentator for the world table tennis championships, which started Wednesday in Japan.

The man who goes into the broadcasting history books for an undisclosed pay is Kim Hui-chin, 57, secretary general of the table tennis association in the world's last bastion of hardline communism. Sharing the job at the Chiba competition, where a single South-North Korean [as received] is competing, is fellow North Korean table tennis official Chang Tae-sam.

North Attending Pacific Security Meeting Viewed

SK2204115291 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 18 Apr 91 p 2

[Unattributed article: "North Korea's Active Participation in 'North Pacific Security Organization'"]

[Text]**Change In Opposition at Canadian Meeting**

It has been revealed that North Korea has recently reversed its position opposing participation in Northeast Asian and northern Pacific region security cooperation organizations, and decided to actively participate in such gatherings.

According to a [ROK] government official, North Korea sent three representatives to the "North Pacific Security Cooperation Conference" which was held from 6 to 10 April 1991 in Toronto, Canada with the assistance of the Canadian Government. These three included Choe U-chin, roving ambassador of the Foreign Ministry (deputy head of the Peaceful Disarmament Research Center) and Pak Sok-kyun, councilor for political affairs at the North Korean Embassy in Beijing (in charge of U.S.-North Korean diplomatic contacts). They expressed their intention to actively participate in future meetings.

This is the first time that North Korea has shown its intention to participate in various security cooperation organizations with outsiders, and is noteworthy in that it appears this will become a good opportunity for reducing tensions between North and South Korea as well as conducting efforts at North-South dialogue in the future. In a diplomatic statement in January 1991, North Korea announced its position stating, "We oppose the establishment of Asia-Pacific security cooperation organizations."

Representatives from ten countries attended the recent "North Pacific Security Cooperation Conference" held at York University in Toronto. These countries included North and South Korea, the U.S., Japan, China, the Soviet Union, Canada, Malaysia, and Great Britain. Government security officials from seven northern Pacific countries including South and North Korea, the U.S., Japan, China, and the Soviet Union were dispatched as observers, and discussed plans for cooperation.

One government source noted, "Canada, in consideration of the states within the region who are conscious of possible damage to the existing U.S.-centered order in the region and as such are passive to full-scale security cooperation, proposed a broader security concept termed 'cooperative security'. Toward this end, gradual stages of discussion in various fields were proposed, and accepted. The fields included aviation and maritime traffic safety to prevent another incident such as the KAL [Korean Air] shootdown incident, environmental cooperation, and the movement of manpower resources."

Attending this conference from South Korea were Kim Kyong-won, head of the Social Science Research Institute; Kim Tal-chung, Yonsei University professor, and Yi Ho-chin, chief of the national security affairs branch [anbokwa] of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

'Boldness' Urged in Negotiating on U.S. Bases

SK2204154791 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 18 Apr 91 p 5

[Article by Pak Chae-kyun: "The Boldness of Aquino"]

[Text] As a citizen of this country, the recent drafting of the ROK-U.S. Wartime Requisition Assistance Agreement (WHNS) developed by the Ministry of National Defense [MND] is enough to make one feel disgraced.

This draft stipulates that not only in time of war but during peacetime as well, military roads, ports, public buildings, and even water supplies would have to be handed over to U.S. forces upon their request. This has resulted in some criticizing the plan as "an unfair agreement which has the danger of making Korea a semi-permanent military base of the United States."

Looking at the attitude of our government, who has shown its "habitual weakness" vis-a-vis the United States, the posture of President Aquino concerning the negotiations over U.S. bases in the Philippines comes to mind.

During the negotiations, resulting from the expiration of leases on six U.S. bases in the Philippines in September 1991, President Aquino has been boldly saying from the very beginning: "If negotiations are not concluded quickly, then we will force the United States to withdraw;" and "We will convert the bases to commercial development." Aquino's boldness is embarrassing the United States which cannot easily abandon Clark Air Force Base, the largest in Asia, and Subic Bay Naval Base.

There is a possibility of making an obvious error in evenly comparing Korea, faced with division of the peninsula, and the Philippines.

However, seen from President Aquino's position, her boldness is not that easy to maintain. This is because it was the United States who supported Aquino's rise to power, and moreover saved the Aquino government just before it fell due to the December 1989 coup d'etat.

In reality, the Aquino government does not wish to see U.S. forces withdrawn. She cannot ignore the role U.S. forces play in helping the Philippine economy, including the 80,000-plus Philippine workers employed at the bases.

Aquino's boldness in spite of these facts is none other than her "negotiating skills." The fruits of President Aquino's boldness is that now, with the sixth round of negotiations having broken down, the amount the United States is saying it would pay annually for the use of the facilities is 100 million dollars more than the amount tabled at the first round of negotiations.

What is lacking in our government, which "grovels" when it comes to the United States, is "negotiating skills" such as these. Even while lacking such skills internally, externally our government parades around arrogantly....

Shouldn't the government authorities such as the MND, who ostensibly display a "strong image," learn from the boldness of the "frail woman" Aquino?

No Tae-u Discusses Gorbachev With Kim Tae-chung

SK2404121891 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] *President No Tae-u hosted a luncheon for the nation's top political, court and government leaders at Chongwadae to explain the results of his summit talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Saturday. In the luncheon that lasted for 90 minutes, No and opposition leader Kim Tae-chung were the main speakers. The following are excerpts from the dialogue at the function.*

No: (to Kim) I congratulate you on the inauguration of the New Democratic Union. You enlisted many respectable persons who have contributed to the nation's democratization in the new party. You seem very busy these days what with your numerous visits to such places as Paldang Dam, the Taejon '93 Expo site and Tongdaemun Market.

Kim: I think you, Mr. President, are busier.

No: I am very glad I can say that the Cheju-do talks were successful. Gorbachev also expressed his satisfaction. I am confident that the talks have greatly contributed to stability on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia by spurring on the cooperative relations between Seoul and Moscow.

Kim: It seems that the political situation in the Soviet Union is very unstable. Did President Gorbachev comment on it?

No: He frankly spoke about his country's problems and difficulties. he even spoke of his personal agony.

Kim: What do you think of Gorbachev's political status (in the Soviet Union)?

No: A U.S. journalist told me recently that even God cannot do better than Gorbachev under the current circumstances. I told him this, too. If the Soviet Union's reform fails, this will be a dark time for the entire world. So, all countries should support the Soviets' efforts for reform.

Kim: Don't you think that the United States is retreating (from its policy to back the reforms)?

No: I think that there is no change in their policy to back perestroyka, even if there are some problems involving the republics.

Kim: I think, that Gorbachev is a hero of the 20th century and will be hailed as the greatest man of the century. I wonder how intimate you and Gorbachev are? I feel that you are more friendly with Gorbachev than me.

No: I understand what you mean. Let's make efforts to work together.

Kim: There is a report of a plan to build pipelines through North Korea from Siberia to South Korea. What do you think of it?

No: It will be impossible right now. But, the Soviet Union wants it and it will also benefit the North. Someday, it will be realized.

Kim: I felt that the Soviet side showed no courtesy by changing the itinerary, compared with Gorbachev's Japan visit.

No: The visit was decided so suddenly, while the official visit to Japan was planned a year in advance. As far as diplomacy is concerned, a supra-partisan support is essential.

Finance Minister Departs for Moscow Meeting

SK2004023191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0212 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—South Korean Finance Minister Chong Yung-ui is to leave for Moscow early Saturday afternoon at the invitation of his Soviet counterpart V.E. Orlov.

Chung, who returned Wednesday from the inaugural meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London, will stay in Moscow for four days before flying to Vancouver, British Columbia, on April 24 to attend the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

In Moscow, Chung and Orlov will discuss ways to expand economic cooperation between their nations, particularly how to open each other's finance market, a Finance Ministry spokesman said.

He will also meet with Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov and with Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Yuriy Maslyukov.

The Korean delegation includes Bank of Korea Governor Kim Kon, Korea Development Bank President Yi Hyong-gu and Kang Song-chin, chairman of the Korea Securities Dealers' Association.

Planned Focus of Seoul-Moscow Treaty Discussed

SK2304012791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0109 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—"Good neighborhood, partnership and cooperation" will be South Korea's focus in pursuing a treaty with the Soviet Union, and military aspects will be precluded as much as possible, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday.

South Korea hopes that the amity pact, proposed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in his talks Saturday with South Korean President No Tae-u, could be modeled after the treaty signed between West Germany and the Soviet Union shortly before German unification last year, they said.

The Sept. 12 Bonn-Moscow treaty stipulates mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, preservation of national territory, mutual cooperation for peace, regular bilateral consultations on international issues and strengthening cooperation and exchange in economic, scientific, technological and cultural fields.

The Bonn-Moscow treaty called the treaty of good neighborhood, partnership and cooperation also contains clauses on restraint of military force for other purposes than self-defense, but the Seoul-Moscow treaty will not have such lines, the officials said.

Seoul maintains that the political situation in Northeast Asia, particularly on and around the Korean peninsula, is different from that in Europe and arms reductions based on a multilateral security system cannot be pursued in this part of the world.

No conveyed this position to Gorbachev during their summit talks on the island of Cheju.

The proposed Seoul-Moscow treaty would cover mutual respect for sovereignty, preservation of national territory, non-interference in domestic affairs, mutual cooperation for peace and promotion of cooperation and exchange in economic, scientific, technological and cultural sectors.

If necessary, it might include a few lines on mutual nonaggression and a declaration not to use military force against each other, but this would be symbolic, they said.

"The Soviet Union has similar treaties of amity with North Korea, India, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Argentina and the content varies," one of the officials said.

The Soviet Union and North Korea signed a treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance in July 1961 under which one party will come to the military assistance of the other whenever it is attacked.

In working out their "treaty of good neighborhood, partnership and cooperation," South Korea and the Soviet Union will seek to systematically and legally build on the various agreements and promises for economic cooperation of the declaration signed by No and Gorbachev in their second summit, in Moscow last December, the officials said.

The two governments will decide on the duration of the treaty through consultation, the officials said. In most cases, the term of a bilateral amity treaty is between 10 and 20 years.

During last week's summit, No and Gorbachev agreed to discuss the pact further through their foreign ministers.

Diplomatic experts say South Korea's conclusion of an amity accord with the Soviet Union may harm its alliance with the United States. A mutual defense treaty was signed by Seoul and Washington in 1953 and took effect the next year.

CHOSON ILBO Comments on Cheju Talks

SK2204062891 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 21 Apr 91 p 3

[Editorial: "Viewpoints on Cheju Talks"]

[Text] Viewpoints on the ROK-USSR talks on Cheju Island are largely divided into two. One view is that water filled only half the glass and the other is that the half-filled glass is sufficient. What is clear above all is that there was water in the glass. The view that the water did not fill even half the glass is also right.

What matters is the quality of the water. This water can be a pure medicinal water. Thus, this water is worth drinking and preserving. However, we should not attempt to hastily drink this glass of water, apart from its quantity, if it is found to be polluted and poisonous.

The time of arrival was postponed many times, boldly breaking general international diplomatic practices, and thus an unprecedented midnight banquet was inevitable during the ROK-USSR summit talks. However, we feel relieved over the report that the ROK-USSR talks, unlike the Japan-USSR summit which was expressed merely as "frank and constructive," were held in a "friendly atmosphere filled with the feeling of consistent harmony." It has been learned that they unanimously reached agreement that "confrontation and tension—results of the cold war—should be removed from the Korean peninsula" and "the North and the South should realize relations of exchange and cooperation based on openness and reconciliation by forming relations of coexistence and coprosperity between the North and the South." This is a very comprehensive and principled agreement. However, one of the four big powers around us, which have had a free hand in our destiny, expressed such a friendly position toward us for the first time since our nation was founded. This is in itself a fortunate event.

However, we need to be a little more calm. President No stressed to President Gorbachev that the unilateral entry of the ROK into the United Nations be realized even before the North if the North side refuses the simultaneous entry of the North and the South which has long been aspired to. But, Gorbachev showed reservation by merely repeating the remark on "universal principle of the United Nations." The Soviet side's response during the meeting between the foreign ministers of the two sides was also a remark merely stressing "continuation of discussion in the future."

Besides, President Gorbachev abruptly proposed to President No the conclusion of a "ROK-USSR treaty of friendship and cooperation." What the difference is between this and the DPRK-USSR treaty for friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance signed between North Korea and the Soviet Union in July 1961 is yet to be further reviewed. However, whether we should hastily conclude a "treaty of friendship" with the Soviet Union, ignoring the past including the Korean war, is doubtful. This proposal appears to have a strategic intention on the part of the Soviet Union to reduce and neutralize the U.S. role in this region in any form.

Based on the same idea of "national self-respect" opposing subjugation to global strategy of the United States, we should not be dragged into hegemonist strategy of the Soviet Union.

At present, no one can decide on the content and significance of the "treaty of friendship" proposed by Gorbachev and on the purpose hidden in his proposal. President No is said to have expressed, above all, an affirmative response. However, we wish to call on him to cautiously review the proposal based on historical facts and national agreement.

According to an announcement, such issues as North-South dialogue, North Korea's nuclear situation, UN membership, and the incident of the Korean Airliner, were discussed at the talks between the two nations' foreign ministers, in addition to the ROK-USSR summit. The ministers of economy and technology also discussed productive and specific issues beneficial to the interest of the two nations.

It was learned that Gorbachev hopes to visit Seoul again in the near future. The development of ROK-USSR relations is desirable. However, such development should not be linked with the attempt to expand influence by a new big power. Thus, it is our earnest desire to resolve the issue of North and South Korea through reconciliation among the same people.

Prudence Urged in Cooperation With USSR

SK2404015391 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Apr 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Prudent Siberia Development"]

[Text] Economic cooperation with the Soviet Union appears to have been excessively rapid and dynamic since diplomatic ties with it were normalized last year. But the bilateral business ties are expected to be even further accelerated now with the economic bond between the two countries once again being emphasized in the summit on Cheju Island between President No Tae-u and his Soviet counterpart Mikhail Gorbachev last weekend.

Notable in this regard is the two leaders' agreement during the summit on joint development of natural resources, especially natural gas, in Siberia and Sakhalin.

The rapid Seoul-Moscow approach comes as the result of their complementary needs, Seoul's need for Moscow's cooperation in diplomatic and security aspects to settle inter-Korean problems and the Soviet Union's call for Seoul's help in overcoming its economic plight.

In return for No's pledge to help Gorbachev's perestroyka, the Soviet president reportedly suggested that the two countries establish joint-venture firms and promote scientific and technological cooperation to boost two-way trade, adding that the two nations might be able to forge a particular model of bilateral cooperation by combining each other's strong points.

Gorbachev did visit South Korea before North Korea, a traditional ally of the Soviet Union. This eloquently speaks of the urgency of the Soviet Union's need for economic assistance from the South.

And Seoul and Moscow confirmed their accord, through not only the summit but also the separate foreign and trade ministers' meetings this time, to promote economic cooperation in a mutually complementary way.

To be noted as a concrete expression of this intention is the agreement reached during the trade ministers' talks to increase the annual trade volume between the two countries from the present $1.5 billion to the $10 billion level by the mid-1990s.

Also to be underscored in particular is the Soviet offer to South Korean industrial concerns of participation in joint ventures in East Siberia to develop infrastructure and natural resources particularly, natural gas in Sakhalin, preferably in consortium with third countries such as the United States and Japan.

The Siberia development of natural resources has often been discussed in not only the Soviet Union but also Japan, Europe and America whenever global oil shocks have occurred. However, the development has yet to be realized apparently due to the bitter cold and other adverse climatic circumstances in the untrodden frozen region and the enormous costs required to construct ports, roads and other infrastructure there.

In addition to unclearness about the profitability of the proposed joint-venture projects under these circumstances, political instability in the Soviet Union itself is also a negative factor for foreign business considering daring to engage in ventures in Siberia.

For this reason, our industrial firms are advised to conduct detailed and prudent feasibility studies and to take part in joint ventures with third advanced countries so as to minimize business risks.

Astuteness is vital to the effort to increase trade, especially of consumer goods, with the Soviet Union and a farsighted and longterm viewpoint must be developed to prevent exports of subquality commodities and set up prompt and necessary after-service.

At the same time, more efforts are needed to get advanced scientific information and sophisticated technology transferred here from the Soviet Union in exchange for our experience in developing industry and technical knowhow.

In a word, Korean industrial concerns must be prudent in doing business steadily in the socialist country, doing away with any reckless and hasty approach there in disregard of venture risk.

Trade Minister Discusses Upcoming Visit to U.S.

SK2104004291 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Apr 91 p 8

[Report on "exclusive interview" with Yi Pong-so, minister of trade & industry, by staff reporter Choe Won-sok on upcoming visit to the United States—place and date not given]

[Text] "My upcoming visit to the United States will further consolidate Korea-U.S. trade relations based on the expansion of mutual understanding and trust," said Trade-Industry Minister Yi Pong-so.

He said, "As my trip is reciprocal in response to U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher's visit to Seoul April 5, there will be no negotiations over outstanding trade issues between Korea and the United States."

"Instead, I will concentrate my efforts on expanding bilateral trade and industrial cooperation through the consolidation of mutual trust and understanding."

"The bag which I will carry to the United States will be full of Korea's trust and I will return home with a bag full of U.S. trust," he said.

Yi left for the United States yesterday, embarking on his first overseas trip after he assumed the ministerial post early this year.

He will stay in the United States until April 28 and meet with U.S. administration, Congress and business leaders to strengthen bilateral trade relations.

Among the U.S. administration leaders whom he will meet with are Mosbacher, Trade Representative Carla Hills and Michael Boskin, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors to President George Bush.

Yi will also have interviews with the Wall Street Journal, the Business Week, the Washington Post and other leading U.S. media on bilateral economic and trade relations.

In an exclusive interview with The Korea Times, he said, "During my visit, I will make contacts with a wide range of figures who wield enormous influence in the making of U.S. trade policies."

"I will tell them the direction of our trade policies towards market liberalization and economic internationalization to lead bilateral trade ties into a more constructive from," he said.

He acknowledged that Korea-U.S. trade relations run into a conflict course last year because of the austerity campaign and what the United States called Korea's uncooperative stance in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

"However," he said, "Our trade relations have shown signs of visible recovery since the beginning of this year as we (Korea) have removed most obstacles through a series of meetings with the United States."

He recalled Mosbacher's appreciation of the Korean Government's efforts to pursue bilateral trade ties more amicably and cordially during his visit to Seoul April 5.

At that time, Mosbacher was quoted as saying, "Korea-U.S. trade relations "hiccoughed" last year but they are now running in the right direction."

Yi said, "Even though the U.S. administration is positively appreciating our trade policies, there are still a number of people in the United States, mostly Congressmen, businessmen and journalists, who look at our trade policies with 'negative' viewpoints."

"As they are of the behind-the-scene group who plays the decisive role on the making of U.S. trade policies, I will focus efforts on helping them understand the true nature of our trade policies," he said.

Noting they still generally believe that the austerity campaign is still persisting in Korea, he said that he will concentrate his efforts on trying to convince them that it is the "by-gone issue."

In reality, a huge volume of foreign consumer products can be seen displayed at department stores and conventional markets in Korea these days, testifying to the disappearance of the austerity program.

Yi said that Korea and the United States have no difference in their trade policies in that they are pursuing free global trade.

"But as the United States has achieved an almost open economic system and Korea still lags behind the advanced countries in terms of economic openings, it is inevitable that trade disputes between Seoul and Washington may sometimes surface," he maintained.

Yi continued, "As Korea is now the 13th largest trading country and has enjoyed the most brilliant economic development benefiting the largest from free global trade represented by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT], we must carry out market opening policies without a pause under any circumstances."

"The pursuit of market opening policies is the only way to continue our economic development in the midst of the globalization of the world economy," he emphasized.

Yi said that as the Uruguay Round trade talks have resumed with the end of the Gulf War, trade issues have emerged as the most important issue of U.S. policies.

Also citing that U.S. influence in international society is further strengthened following the victory of American-led multi-national forces in the Gulf War, he said, "Now is the important time to cope wisely with such a development in the world community."

In his meeting with Mosbacher, he will call for Korea-U.S. cooperation in the post-Gulf War rehabilitation projects in Kuwait.

Mosbacher is chairman of the U.S. committee for the postwar rehabilitation projects in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Yi will call upon the United States to announce its participation in the '93 Taejon International Exposition as early as possible.

Following his trip to the United States, he will fly to Canada April 29 to take part in the 11th Korea-Canada trade ministerial conference until April.

During the conference, he will discuss, among other things, cooperation between the two countries for the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round talks which seek to include agricultural and fishery products, services and intellectual property rights in global merchandise trade as stipulated by the GATT.

He is scheduled to return home May 2.

No Tae-u Expected To Visit U.S. in Summer

SK2404084291 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] President No Tae-u is expected to visit Washington in June or July this year for a summit with U.S. President George Bush, a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official said yesterday.

He said the two governments are having consultations over the matter.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok will soon visit Washington to talk with U.S. officials about No's visit, the official said.

He expected that the minister and U.S. officials will fix the schedule of the President's trip to Washington.

"Even if Bush visits Moscow in June or another time, it is certain that No will visit Washington," the Foreign Ministry official said.

The official said the government had been pushing for President No's U.S. visit during a U.N. General Assembly session this fall but decided to advance it because of the rapid international and political changes after the Gulf war and the recent summit between No and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

He said President Bush has at present no plan to visit Seoul.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok Leaves for Japan

SK2404091291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0850 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok left Wednesday for Japan and the United States.

In Tokyo, Yi is to hold three rounds of talks with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Seoul's bid for U.N. membership, international inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities and other matters of mutual concern.

He will call on Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and meet with key officials of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Yi will fly to Washington, D.C., on Saturday to brief U.S. officials on the outcome of the summit talks between Korean President No Tae-u and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last week.

He will meet President George Bush, Secretary of State James Baker and other administration officials, and is likely to set a date for No's visit to the United States, Korean Foreign Ministry officials said.

Late June or early July is considered likely, they said. Yi will return home May 4.

* Ministry Considers Foreign Labor Imports

* Miners From China, SE Asia

912C0182A Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 27 Feb 91 p 23

[Unattributed article: "Foreign Labor Imports Imminent"]

[Text] It is likely that imports of low-wage foreign labor forces, including Koreans in China, will begin some time this year if all goes well.

Minister of Labor Choe Pyong-yol at a meeting on 25 February with representatives of coal miners and management in the Taebaek area, Kangwon Province, disclosed that "with a view to relieving the shortage of miners, we will consider positively a program to permit imports of foreign labor and see that it is put in place after labor-management negotiations."

Choe said, however, that considering the impact of such imports on the domestic labor force, it is desirable that the necessary complementary measures are worked out before the program takes effect.

In view of the present situation of the mining industry plagued by a grave labor shortage, the proposed imports are likely to begin sometime this year should the negotiations with all the agencies concerned go smoothly.

The move of the Ministry of Labor is noteworthy in that it means a basic retreat from its previous stand, for it had been against such imports.

Foreign workers being considered by the Ministry of Labor are overseas Koreans in China and Southeast Asians whose wages are relatively low. As a test case, they will be hired at coal mines under the Coal Corporation this year, to begin with. The program then will be expanded to cover private coal mines.

The current total number of miners in our country is 38,000. The shortage—some 5,000 annually—is adding momentum to mines being abandoned. This year another 47 coal mines are to be closed down and this trend is becoming a stumbling block to the nation's coal production.

Need for Labor Imports Questioned

912C0182B Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 28 Feb 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Do We Have To Import Foreign Labor?"]

[Text] The administration is considering the issue of importing foreign labor. After the Minister of Labor disclosed on 25 February plans to consider the issue of importing of foreign workers to work at coal mines, a Cabinet meeting held on 27 February reportedly heard the view that foreign labor imports should be allowed not only for the mining industry but for construction companies too. While no conclusion was reached at the meeting due to inter-ministry differences, it is noteworthy that the prime minister instructed further consultations and study between the ministries involved, setting a stage for public debates.

As for us, to state our conclusion first, we are of the opinion that the government should first discuss, and establish, measures to make the most of the domestic labor available. The reason is that in our view, the current labor shortage, and its negative impact on production, are problems stemming from imbalances between industries and skills, not from any shortage in total manpower, and the nation has these problems today not because its industrial structure is advanced but rather because its industrial productivity is low. Therefore, we feel that the proper approach is for the government to take steps to readjust the supply and demand in manpower and improve productivity to make the most of the domestically available labor before considering importing foreign labor.

From the standpoint of the industry, foreign labor imports are an attractive alternative. When the manufacturing industry reports a skilled-labor shortage as high as 7 percent, foreign labor imports could be a convenient way to make up the shortage; in addition, there is the advantage that foreign workers thus imported work for lower wages. The industry, resorting to such advantages, may be able to tide over its immediate difficulty and gain time to push structural reorganizations. For instance, in the case of coal mining as one of the shrinking industries, staying in business and not abandoning mines immediately could be, in a pragmatic sense, in the interest of promoting a maximum utilization of resources and an overall gain in the added value, although it means part of the value added being drained out of the country.

Moreover, we now live in an era of openness and internationalization, which represents an ideal the world is heading for and an inevitable order. The day may come when the principle of openness and free movement as well as the law of supply and demand based on the market force prove to be applicable not just to commodity and service but to labor, too. To prepare ourselves for that eventuality, we perhaps need to begin opening our labor market, on a limited basis.

However, foreign labor imports inevitably create problems as much as they bring benefits. The low-cost imported labor may indeed suit the immediate purpose of enterprises to stay in business and be competitive; however, unless it is accompanied by the effort of industrial structural reorganization through improved productivity, the industry is bound to hit the limits in competitiveness in the face of a push by other developing countries to catch up. Furthermore, the current manpower shortage has been caused by the skilled labor flowing into the service industry. Therefore, once foreign labor is imported for the secondary industry to make up for the shortages, and if the time comes after that when the tertiary industry becomes unable to expand its employment any more, the surplus labor thus caused will have no place to turn to. This could aggravate the unemployment problem. Attention should be paid to the fact that even now, while the nation has a shortage of skilled labor, the unemployment rate is as high as 2.5 percent.

How foreign workers, if brought in, should be treated in the future is also a matter that should not be taken lightly. For instance, after West Germany allowed a massive influx of foreign workers in the 1960's, a majority of them eventually became naturalized or stayed on as illegal aliens and became a source of headache for authorities. We find it necessary to give due attention to the opposition raised by the Justice Ministry, which argues that if foreign labor imports become a reality, there will be administrative problems of returning them to their home countries after their contracts expire and of preventing illegal inflows of foreign labor.

The ultimate goal of developing the economy and industry is to increase national wealth. The best way to achieve this goal is a production system minimizing the flow of the value added out of the country. We should provide the needed labor by ourselves; also, the results should be shared only among ourselves. While experiencing similar labor shortages, Japan is cautious about liberalizing its labor market. We should learn from Japan.

Pros, Cons of Labor Imports

912C0182C Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 5 Mar 91 p 13

[Article by reporter Chong Sun-kyun: "Pros and Cons of Labor Imports—It Is a Close Game; Mining Labor Import Issue Rekindles Debates"]

[Text] To import or not to import foreign labor has, after a brief lull, again become an issue since the recent Ministry of Labor disclosure of a plan to consider importing miners from overseas.

The Ministry of Labor policy is premised on labor and management reaching agreement on the issue. However, Kwangsan Noryon [Federation of Mining Workers Unions], as a party involved, has already made clear its position opposing the proposed labor imports; also, labor groups such as Nochong [Federation of Korean Trade Unions] and Chonnohyop [National Council of Labor Unions] have unanimously voiced their opposition to the Ministry of Labor plan. Consequently, regardless of the outcome of today's informal session of economic ministers, the foreign miners import plan is likely to be put in the throes.

On the other hand, the manufacturing and construction industries have resumed—as if they had been waiting for this time—their strong demands for foreign labor imports.

Those industries, plagued by severe labor shortages for some time now, have long been seeking to import simple, low-cost foreign labor. However, prevented by the Ministry of Labor policy—"labor imports are absolutely not authorized except for minimum numbers of professional and skilled workers"—they have been unable to launch a full-scale debate on it.

Their position, voiced unanimously, is that shortages even worse than last year's would be inevitable should nothing be done to correct the situation.

Following is a review of realities facing the businesses and the positions of the Ministry of Labor and labor groups.

Realities of Businesses:

Construction companies, currently in a boom generated by orders for two million housing units, are finding themselves compelled to delay the completion dates under the pressure of manpower shortages.

A certain Kim, 48, who owns a small construction firm, said that "business is brisk thanks to the orders for 2 million housing units but we are having a hard time finding the workers we need." "The daily wages rose to 40,000-60,000 won from 15,000-20,000 won," he added, "but we still are unable to find the required number of workers and consequently are not sure if we can meet the scheduled completion date."

In an increasing number of cases, small- and medium-size manufacturing businesses find themselves unable to fill orders they have received, creating backlogs in export goods production. Under the circumstances, some companies are even reluctant to accept orders.

Most severely hit by the labor shortages are the electronic and textile industries.

In the textile industry, the average length of service is 3-5 years with the skilled workers, which is approximately half of the Japanese average. The manpower shortage has even deepened lately as the trends have intensified among workers to avoid employment in the manufacturing industry.

As a result, in comparison with 1989, the number of workers in employment has diminished as much as 22 percent, making it difficult for firms to fill orders, and even forcing some to cut back on operations.

In the Taegu area industrial complex where 2,040 textile firms are concentrated, more than 10,000 workers left their jobs last year; as a result, most of the firms are forced to leave 30 to 40 percent of the weaving machines they had installed idle.

Electronic firms also find it difficult to continue normal operations as they run as much as 30 percent short of the required manpower.

Thus, the Korean Electronic Industry Cooperative Union is seeking to hire second-generation Koreans in Vietnam and overseas Koreans in China.

The Ministry of Labor Position

The Ministry of Labor position is to limit the study of foreign labor imports to the mining industry. Such imports to be considered will not be unconditional ones, however, but will be authorized only after a complete accord has been reached between labor and management, measures taken to prevent damage caused by such imports on Korean miners, and a legal device established to ensure the withdrawal of all the foreign miners to their home countries once their contracts expire.

In other words, the Ministry of Labor remains firmly opposed to authorizing foreign labor imports for other industries including the manufacturing and construction businesses.

According to Labor Minister Choe Pyong-yol, "the labor shortage in the coal industry is critical and unless something is done to cope with the crisis, all the coal mines but a few under the Coal Corporation will have to be closed down, with tens of thousands of miners losing their jobs." "Under the present circumstance," he noted, "where workers basically avoid employment in the mining industry for the high labor intensity and danger of industrial disasters, the policy of supply-demand adjustment in domestic labor alone does not resolve the labor shortage at mines and, therefore, we have no alternative but to consider mining labor imports."

The Position of Labor Groups

Meanwhile, Kwangsan Noryon and other labor groups such as Nochong and Chonnohyop made their opposition clear to the Ministry of Labor study of foreign mining labor imports.

In a statement issued on 25 February, Kwangsan Noryon (chairman: Kim Tong-chol) charged that "The Ministry of Labor is pursuing an expediential policy by proposing imports of foreign mining labor even before it considers ways and means to resolve imbalances in the manpower supply and demand."

Pointing out that "the labor shortages in the mining and manufacturing industries have been caused by the low wages, the long work hours and the poor working environments," Chonnohyop stated: "Instead of considering foreign labor imports, the government should work to improve the working conditions so as to attract nonproductive workers from the service industry to the mining and manufacturing industries."

"The government policy of considering foreign labor imports cannot lead to a basic measure to resolve the mining industry labor shortage," a Kwangsan Noryon source said, adding: "If the government extends bold policy support to the sinking mining industry and improves the working conditions, it is still possible to draw large numbers of workers to work in mines."

Firm To Set Up Joint Venture With China

SK2404023391 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Apr 91 p 8

[Text] Korea Special Bearing Co., a medium-sized company specializing in the manufacture of hi-tech bearings, has agreed to set up a 50-50 joint venture with China's Qingdao, the port city in Shandong Province, the company announced yesterday.

The Han Qing Development Co. is the first Korean-Chinese joint venture which has won corporate approval from Qingdao City, company officials claimed. The signing ceremony for the joint venture was held at Hyatt Hotel yesterday.

The joint venture has been granted exclusive rights to undertake all trade and investment business between Korea and Qingdao for the next 15 years, said Yu Sung-kil, president of Korea Special Bearing Co.

He told a press meeting that Han Qing Development Co. will seek to build large harbor facilities in Qingdao and to launch a regular ferry service between Qingdao and Inchon by luring funds from Korean businesses.

Other projects proposed include constructing a trade center and industrial complexes in Qingdao.

Yun demanded Korean businesses looking for trade and investment opportunities in Qingdao will have to go through Han Qing Development Co.

But it is unclear whether the joint venture will win approval of its foreign investment from the Korean Government, analysts said.

Qingdao, one of China's four largest port cities, has recently attracted the spotlight from the Korean business community as a forward base for their investment in China.

The state-run Korea Land Development Corporation is seeking to build industrial complexes in the port city.

Hungarian Trade Minister Meets With Officials

SK2404085091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0813 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—Bela Kadar, Hungarian minister of international economic relations, called for South Korean investment in his country Wednesday.

In a meeting with Vice Trade and Industry Minister Pak Yong-to, Kadar appealed for Korean businesses to invest in Hungary, especially in the manufacturing sector.

Kadar said his country was actively attracting investors by improving investment conditions and expressed his hope for deeper economic cooperation between Seoul and Budapest.

The Hungarian minister arrived Sunday for a six-day visit to discuss the promotion of cooperation in trade and investment with Korean Government officials and business leaders.

He paid a courtesy call on Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu and met a number of Korean business leaders, including Chong Se-yong, chairman of the Hyundai Group.

Investment Talks Set Up With Bulgaria, CSFR

SK2404031891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0239 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—South Korea will hold talks on an investment guarantee pact with Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia next month, the Foreign Ministry announced Wednesday.

A Korean delegation headed by Yi Chong-mu, director-general of the ministry's International Economic Affairs Bureau, will meet with Bulgarian officials in Sophia May 6-7 and then go on to Prague May 10-11.

The working-level talks will focus on establishing effective investment ventures into the East Bloc for Korean businesses, ministry officials said.

Chief delegates may initial an agreement, but signing will come only after due government procedures. The Korean delegates will be from the foreign and finance ministries.

Korea already has similar investment pacts with Hungary, Poland and Romania, and is planning negotiations with Yugoslavia.

Envoy to Geneva Urges Farm Sector Restructure

SK2404020291 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Korean Ambassador to Geneva Pak Su-kil called for an early and bold restructuring of the agriculture sector in preparation for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations by the end of this year.

He said in an interview yesterday that South Korea has to make market opening concessions because it has been one of the major beneficiaries of the free market system under GATT.

Pak said that the government "unofficially" indicated its willingness to delete a number of agricultural products from its list of non-trade concerns (NTC) during an informal high-level meeting of the Trade Negotiations committee in February. South Korea had submitted a list of 15 agricultural products, which included such staples as rice, barley and milk.

"Rice and a few other products, though, will not be dropped from the revised NTC list," said Amb. Pak.

The four-year-long multilateral negotiations resulted in failure in a trade ministers' meeting in Brussels last December because of agricultural problems which Pak called "a hostage" of the Uruguay Round talks.

The December failure was mainly ascribed to South Korea because it was erroneously reported that Korea formed an alliance with Japan and EC countries against the U.S. and the Cairns Group over differences in agricultural trade.

Pak said that a climate is now being created for compromise and negotiations will be accelerated when the U.S. administration wins approval from the Congress for the renewal of its "fast track authority" which expires on May 31.

The United States and EC countries are likely to reach a compromise over agricultural subsidies and market openings, by retreating from their respective positions, Pak said.

However, Pak emphasized that the success of the Uruguay Round talks would not result in an immediate, full opening of agricultural markets. A minimum market opening of 3 to 5 percent for rice will likely be introduced instead of full liberalization.

He then stressed that South Korean farmers should concentrate on growing items having international competitiveness such as vegetables, apple and other fruits in preparation for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round.

The success of the Uruguay Round negotiations will benefit export-oriented Korea rather than harm it, he said. Pak 57, served as ambassador to Canada before he was assigned to his current post in February.

Pak said he confirmed reports that a Geneva hospital had planned to send heart specialists to North Korea to implant a "pacemaker" in Kim Il-song who is reportedly suffering from an irregular heartbeat.

The plan fell through as Geneva failed to give approval for the dispatch of the specialists, according to Pak.

"I met a doctor of cardiology who was invited. He told me that Kim Il-song's heart problems are not serious but a product of old age," he said.

Ministry 'Furious' Over Remarks

SK2404072691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0621 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Agriculture Ministry is furious with the South Korean ambassador to Geneva for saying it was "inevitable" Korea's rice market would open to allow imports.

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry registered a strong complaint Wednesday with the Foreign Affairs and Trade-Industry Ministries and asked the Economic Planning Board to immediately call a meeting to set an official stand on the issue.

At the center of the storm is Pak Su-kil, ambassador to Geneva, where the Uruguay Round trade talks are headquartered, who told reporters opening of the rice market was inevitable and predicted the government would probably settle for 3 percent to 5 percent opening.

Trade Minister Yi Pong-so, currently on a U.S. tour, was also quoted as telling U.S. trade and congressional leaders his country planned to liberalize its farm policy, which may well include opening the rice market.

The Agriculture Ministry listed 15 farm products as nontrade concerns at the Uruguay Round last December, but later indicated it is willing to reduce the number to just two or three. It insisted the rice market must stay closed, however, even at the cost of compromising on other sectors, citing national food security and the financial difficulties of Korean farmers.

Agriculture Ministry officials insist they are in charge of farm market liberalization policies, and comments by other agencies without going through them are "unforgivable."

The Ministry is reacting strongly, unwilling to pass over the incident, officials said.

Meeting of Diplomatic Mission Chiefs Concludes

SK2204091491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0744 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 22 (YONHAP)—The annual meeting of Korean diplomatic mission chiefs closed here Monday with participants in the weeklong gathering vowing to do their utmost to fulfill the government policy of joining the United Nations this year.

"We will do our best to achieve the nation's bid to join the United Nations within the year so that it can advance the date of reunification on the Korean peninsula," they said in a resolution issued following the meeting.

The 91 participants also pledged to upgrade relations with socialist nations through more effective political and economic cooperation, it said.

They also vowed to make efforts for the success of the third session of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Seoul in October.

Prime Minister on Summit, Domestic Policies

SK2204070791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0642 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 22 (YONHAP)—United Nations membership within the year and peace on the Korean peninsula are South Korea's international aims while it seeks inflation control and clean environment at home, Prime Minister No Chae-pong said Monday.

Reporting on state affairs at a plenary session of the National Assembly, No reminded the country of the cooperative mood at the South Korea-Soviet summit last week.

"The government will seek multitudinous diplomatic efforts so that the South Korea-Soviet summit will lead to concrete results and contribute to peace and stability not only in bilateral relations but on the Korean peninsula," No told the assembly.

Seoul's U.N. entry is certain to ease tension on the Korean peninsula, the prime minister stressed, and the government can no longer delay its application.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, citing universality of the United Nations, expressed during the summit his understanding of South Korea's intention to join the global body before North Korea if necessary, No said.

Explaining the results of the summit, No said the South Korean president recommended Seoul-Moscow foreign ministers' meeting to discuss signing of the binational agreement on "friendly relations and cooperation" between the two countries proposed by Gorbachev.

The two countries were also eye to eye on demanding North Korea to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection, the prime minister said.

At home, the national focus will be on controlling inflation, he said. Close price checks on agricultural products, daily necessities and real estate, budget reduction of 1.6 trillion won (2.2 billion U.S. dollars) and controlled money supply will be key policies, he said.

The government is also studying wide-ranging environmental improvement measures, No told the assembly, including stringent and continued inspection of pollution-emitting businesses and penalties.

The government is also carefully moving to modify the country's education system, dividing college education into general academic and specialized universities, he said.

No also delivered a speech on behalf of President No Tae-u calling for early payment of 280 million U.S. dollars promised in support of U.S.-led coalition during the Gulf war.

The 280 million dollars is second set of financial and material support on top of 220 million dollars initially pledged.

The money will be appropriated into Foreign Ministry's expenditure and drawn from 1990 taxes, No indicated in the speech.

Government Accused of Pollution, Land Scandal

SK2404011891 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Legislators of the ruling and the opposition camps yesterday grilled Prime Minister No Che-pong and his Cabinet ministers on the issues of tap water pollution and a land development scandal involving ranking officials and some lawmakers.

They also put the spotlight on the government's "loss of enthusiasm" for reforms as well as an alleged move by the ruling camp to change the form of the government into a parliamentary Cabinet system.

Six Assemblymen took the floor to question the government on pending issues. They were in order Sin Sang-u, Han Kwang-ok, Chang Sok-hwa, Yu Su-ho, Pak Sang-chon and Kwon Hae-ok.

Denouncing the "easy-going" attitude of the administration and conglomerates toward the discharge of the poisonous chemical phenol into the Naktong River, the source of the running water for the southwestern provinces, they demanded the dismissal of responsible Cabinet members.

The opposition lawmakers, in particular, brought Chongwadae, the presidential office, under fire, charging that Chongwadae masterminded not only the Suso housing scandal, marked by palm-greasing of officials and Assemblymen, but also a subsequent coverup.

They argued that President No Tae-u bears the main responsibility, calling for a House probe as well as the adoption of a "special attorney" system to prosecute the offenders.

Rep. Sin of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] asked whether Premier No is willing to recommend President No take bold action and free people jailed for breaking laws in the course of anti-government protests "to display the government's will for the national reconciliation."

Rep. Han of the opposition New Democratic Union [NDU] asked if it would be possible without President No's instruction to continue giving preferable financial support to the Hanbo business group despite the "Suso" scandal.

He maintained, "In recent days, President No has dropped hints at the possibility of introducing the parliamentary Cabinet system in private gatherings." He quizzed Premier No on his views about the change of the governmental form.

He also demanded the dismissal of Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku who triggered a controversy with his hardline remarks about the possibility of a preemptive attack on North Korea's nuclear facilities. Han argued that No who also acts as the DLP president should sever his ties with the ruling party.

Rep. Chang of the splinter Democratic Party criticized the No administration for its humble diplomatic posture before the Soviet Union, asking what the government's position is toward Moscow's surprise proposal of a "goodwill and cooperation" treaty.

DLP Rep. Yu, who was elected from Taegu, the major city affected by the pollution of the Naktong River, asserted that the government has to place its top priority on anti-pollution efforts, by making bold investments.

He urged Premier No to make a public pledge to take responsibility for the prevention of a recurrence of tap water pollution.

NDU Rep. Pak condemned the ruling camp's intransigent stance on the "reform bills," including ones on security and police neutrality, because of the "selfishness of the authorities."

He demanded disclosure of detailed schedules for the local council elections for big cities and provinces which are slated for this June.

DLP Rep. Kwon said that the government should be tough in its investigation of irregularities committed by public servants and social leaders.

He also questioned what the government thinks of conglomerates starting the news media businesses.

No Chae-pong Answers Questions at Assembly

SK2404013891 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister No Chae-pong yesterday said that the Defense Security Command [DSC] which had caused controversy over the resumption of surveillance of civilians, would be put under stricter control and ordered to improve the quality and competence of its staff.

In a plenary National Assembly session, he also said that law enforcement authorities would be forced to better comply with the "firm" government intention to root out torture of suspects.

He also briefly hinted at the release of a student activist, Yim Su-kyong, who has been jailed for her unauthorized visit to North Korea in the summer of 1989. Pyongyang has continued to demand her immediate release.

No entertained dozens of questions from six lawmakers on political matters very briefly and largely in an evasive manner.

He said, "The military authorities will be ordered to have the Defense Security Command be more faithful to its duties in order not to invite misunderstanding. The DSC is to take steps to that end including harder training of its staff.

At the same time, he said that all measures would be adopted to ensure policy get back in line, "if the law enforcement agency went astray."

As to the demand for the release of Miss Yim Su-kyong and other "prisoners of conscience," the prime minister replied, "The authorities may weigh the measures allowable by law in consideration of humanism though it is not appropriate to take lenient steps for political reasons in the light of the equality of all before the law."

He then protected Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku whose dismissal is being demanded by opposition parties for his suggestion of a premptive attack against North Korean nuclear facilities.

"A misunderstanding took place in the course of his expression. He instantly set the records straight about his real intention and the administration has done so toward the press through our overseas missions," he said.

Views Soviet Pact Proposal

SK2404112691 Seoul YONHAP in English 1055 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—South Korean Prime Minister No Chae-pong said Wednesday that the Seoul-Moscow amity treaty proposed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in his Cheju talks with President No Tae-u neither smacked of an alliance pact nor contained elements of military cooperation.

Speaking in an interpellation session on unification, national security and foreign affairs, No said, "our position is to develop friendly ties between the two countries on the basis of 'Moscow declaration' adopted at the second round of the Korean-Soviet summit in December in Moscow, and to level up the reciprocal relations to a higher dimension through the treaty if deemed necessary."

As for the Soviet initiative at creating an international cooperative body in Asia and the Pacific region, "the idea deserves a consideration on the long-term perspective, but, at the present time, it is premature to prop it up since the surrounding conditions are not yet ripe," he said.

"During the Cheju summit, No and Gorbachev stressed the importance of the inter-Korean dialogue, but we did not ask for Soviet support for our bid to hold summit talks with and North Korea."

Denying some reports that No promised Gorbachev to provide an additional economic aid of 2 billion U.S. dollars to the Soviet Union, he emphasized economic cooperation between the two countries would not be affected at all by political changes in Moscow as it has been made on the country-to-country level, not on the individual-to-individual level.

"As I see, China takes it for granted that our country should become a full member of the United Nations, considering the international status of Korea and the principle of universality of U.N. membership," No said.

"In light of its responsibility as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, China is expected to support the entry of Korea into the United Nations, which is favored by the absolute majority of the U.N. member states."

However, he expressed negative attitude toward the idea of making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone, saying that an international guarantee for removing the threat of nuclear war and an inter-Korean consultation aimed at preventing a nuclear war should be secured prior to its discussion.

On the opening of domestic rice market, there is no change in the government's basic position that domestic rice market should not be open to foreign countries particularly in view of food security, he said.

Resignations of Minister, Taegu Mayor Urged

SK2404073491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0647 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—Environment Minister Ho Nam-hun and Taegu Mayor Yi Hae-pong look about to be fired as millions of outraged South Koreans grapple with the cancer-causing chemical phenol in their tap water for the second time in a month.

"In consideration of the public outrage over pollution of the water supply, I will ask President No Tae-u to have the officials concerned assume responsibility for the contamination," Kim Yong- sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], told party officials Wednesday.

Kim is expected to propose the resignations of Ho and Yi in his regular meeting with No on Thursday afternoon, an aide to Kim said.

"Although the contamination was not deliberate, responsibility should be carried this time for it was done by the same company as before," a presidential aide said.

Doosan Electro-Materials Co., a subsidiary of the Doosan Group, on Monday released a large amount of phenol into the Naktong River, which is a source of tap water for millions of people in South and North Kyongsang Provinces. It was the second time, The company polluted the same river with the same chemical in late March.

Phenol, which can damage the nervous system and cause cancer, becomes more dangerous when combined with the chlorine used to purify tap water.

Meeting with Prime Minister No Chae-pong on Tuesday, some DLP lawmakers called for the resignations of the two government officials in connection with the incident, which started a nationwide war on pollution.

The main opposition party, the New Democratic Union headed by Kim Tae-chung, strongly demanded resignation of the cabinet, charging suspension of water supplies in Taegu twice showed the incompetence of the government.

In the National Assembly on Tuesday, both ruling and opposing camps urged not only dismissal of the officials but an official investigation by the National Assembly of the problem.

Company Head Resigns; Accepts Pollution Blame

SK2404025691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0219 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—Doosan group chairman Pak Yong-kon resigned Wednesday, accepting blame for the leak of toxic phenol by a Doosan subsidiary into a river that supplies water to millions of people.

The group named Chong Su-chang as the new chairman. Chong, 71, a group elder, was chairman of the Oriental Brewery Co., a main line of the conglomerate, in 1969-1977 and president of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 1977-1981.

Pak said he was sorry for the inconvenience and worry caused the people of Taegu City by the phenol leak and urged employees to come together to overcome the crisis and be born again under the new chairman.

Doosan Electro-Materials Co. was caught Tuesday leaking phenol into Naktong River. The same company was responsible for another phenol discharge late last month that contaminated tap water in Taegu.

Police Round Up Over 3,000 Demonstrators

SK2004031991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0247 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—Police in South Korea rounded up 3,034 people during demonstrations Friday and are holding 197 for questioning on suspicion of throwing firebombs. The others were released with warnings, National Police Headquarters said Saturday.

The police headquarters said an estimated 50,000 students from 155 universities and colleges, including 10,000 from 35 schools in Seoul, took part in the anti-government demonstrations, some of them late into the night.

The law on firebombs, strengthened recently, says that endangering life or property by throwing firebombs can be punished with up to five years in jail or a fine of up to 5 million won. The government has defined throwing a firebomb as a terrorist act.

The demonstrators battled riot police in the most violent street protests of the year to mark the 31st anniversary of the April 19, 1960, student uprising that led to the overthrow of President Syngman Rhee and to protest the visit of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for a summit.

Gorbachev's visit, they said, would not only help South Korea's "dictatorial government" but dampen inter-Korean talks for easing tension and advancing unification by isolating North Korea further.

Parties Disagree on Local Council Campaigns

SK2404033491 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Saying that campaigning for the March local council elections, the first in 30 years, has touched off many problems, the ruling party has proposed that joint campaign rallies be abolished for the June elections to form councils at six big cities and provinces.

Instead, the Democratic Liberal Party is saying that candidates should be allowed to hold rallies indoors and on an individual basis.

The main opposition party, New Democratic Union, however, swiftly rejected the proposal as a scheme to weaken overall activities of political parties.

Kim Yun-hwan, secretary-general of the majority government party, said it is desirable that joint outdoor campaign rallies be replaced by individual indoor rallies.

He said the joint campaign rallies during the March 26 local elections have spawned many problems. For instance, he said, many candidates connived to call off stumping rallies and not many voters bothered to turn out at such gatherings.

Individually held rallies would certainly make election campaigning more appealing to voters, the ruling party official said.

However, he said indoor rallies should be limited to about two hours.

Perhaps one person could speak in support of a certain candidate. In the earlier elections, only candidates had been allowed to speak at joint rallies.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Kelantan Government Not Allowed Support of MCA

BK2304030291 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Apr 91 p 4

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Fir.—The MCA [Malaysian Chinese Association] does not allow any member to be involved in any activity that tantamounts to supporting the PAS [Pan Malaysian Islamic Party]-led State Government in Kelantan.

Its deputy president Datuk Lee Kim Sai said this today when asked to comment on a ruling by Kelantan MCA chief Datuk Wong Chor Wah disallowing members from sitting in the State Non-Mulsim Affairs Consultative Committee.

He said that Datuk Wong was following this guideline issued by the party headquarters after the opposition took over the State Government in the general election last year.

However, Datuk Lee said, this guideline would not stop any MCA member from bringing up matters affecting the Chinese community to the State Government.

Asked whether he would endorse the State MCA ruling barring the two from joining the committee, he said he would have to study the matter in detail.

"I have to check whether taking up this appointment tantamounts to supporting the State Government."

Those appointed to the committee are businessmen Khoo Beng Ee and Han Hip Kuan to represent the Chinese community, Datuk Khalid Ibrahim Sheikh and S.K.L. Mani (Indian Community) and Eh Chan s/o [son of] Shoudi (Thai community).

In Kota Baru, Kelantan Deputy Menteri Besar [chief minister] II Haji Rozali Isohak advised them to accept the appointments.

He said the State Government was sincere in wanting to appoint them as representatives of the non-Muslims and to help look after their interests.

He was commenting on the MCA and MIC's [Malaysian Indian Congress'] copposition to their members accepting the appointments.

He said that he could not understand the action of the MCA and MIC in discouraging their members from joining the committee.

Haji Rozali said the move by the State Government to appoint non-Muslims to sit in the committee was with good intention and aimed at improving the relations between the State Government and the non-Muslim community.

"We are sincere in our efforts to get the non-Muslims represented in this committee and to make sure their views are heard by the State Government," he added.

He assured those appointed that the State Government would not politicise the committee for the sake of gaining political mileage among the non-Muslims in the State.

"We appointed them to sit in the committee because there have been numerous complaints in the past by the non-Muslims that they are not represented in the State Government," he said.

The committee, he added, would act as an advisory body to assist the State Government in drawing and implementing development programmes which would benefit the non-Muslims.

Both MCA president Datuk Sri Dr Ling Liong Sik and MIC president Datuk Sri S. Samy Vellu warned of disciplinary actions against party members who accepted the appointments.

They had said they did not want their members to assist the PAS-led State Government to weaken the Barisan Nasional's struggle in Kelantan.

MCA May Act Against Kelantan Supporters

BK2304142291 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Apr 91 p 1

[By K.H. Lim and Shamsul Akmar]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sun.—The MCA [Malaysian Chinese Association] will consider taking action against two of its members for joining a committee set up by the PAS-[Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party] led State Government in Kelantan if their actions were tantamount to supporting the State Government.

Its deputy president, Datuk Lee Kim Sai, said today the party would have to study the objectives of the committee before deciding whether sitting on the committee would mean supporting the PAS-led Government.

Two MCA members have been appointed to the proposed Non-Muslim Affairs Consultative Committee as representatives of the Kelantan Chinese Assembly Hall.

The two, businessmen Khoo Beng Ee and Han Hip Kuan, have agreed to accept the appointments on the grounds that they were representing the Chinese Assembly Hall and not the party.

Datuk Lee, who is the Health Minister, said the party had decided on a general guideline that no member should be involved in any activity that supported the Kelantan Government.

He said MCA members, as Chinese community leaders, could raise issues affecting the community with the State Government.

In Kota Baru, Kelantan MCA chairman Datuk Wong Chor Wah said the two members would be asked to resign from the party or face disciplinary action.

Datuk Wong said it was a clear-cut matter and there was no need for any investigation.

"Since they openly decided to sit on the committee despite being advised against it, it is a blatant disregard of party regulations and its best that they resign on their own accord.

"It would be meaningless for them to remain in the party if they do not adhere to party principles and regulations," Datuk Wong said.

Mr Khoo had said he was not only representing the MCA but also the Chinese community while Mr Han claimed it was unfair for the MCA to oppose his decision as he was not representing the party but the Chinese Assembly Hall.

When questioned what action would be taken against the errant members, Datuk Wong said it was up to the MCA's disciplinary committee but he did not rule out the possibility that they could be sacked.

Meanwhile, party president Datuk Sri Dr Ling Liong Sik reiterated the party's stand that the MCA would not participate in any committee set up by the Kelantan Governmewnt.

Commentary on Trade Policy, Trade With China

BK2204095191 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Station Commentary]

[Text] Malaysia's premier position in the world's trading scene is becoming more evident week after week. This is due not only to Malaysia's rapid industrialization but its liberal trade policy. This country is willing to have economic and trade ties with all countries irrespective of political and economic idealogy.

The People's Republic of China is rapidly becoming a top trading partner of Malaysia. In fact, if its trade with Malaysia reaches 7 billion ringgit this year, China will become our fifth most important trading partner. It is well known that China is making strenuous efforts to expand trade with all countries. This forward-looking policy is in harmony with Malaysia's own interest. There is nothing like trade ties to foster harmony and goodwill among nations.

Malaysia's export to China had, understandably, been in the primary commodities sector. Palm oil is the major export. In fact, the People's Republic is the largest buyer of Malaysia's palm oil and its by-product. Last year, China took about 660 million ringgit worth of the commodity. This figure represents 15 percent of Malaysia's worldwide export of palm oil. There is no reason why China should not purchase more Malaysian palm oil.

Malaysia is, of course, keen on expanding its export of manufactured and semi-processed goods. Over the last decade Malaysian enterprises had ventured into numerous consumer goods production. In the electrical goods and electronic sector, Malaysia occupies a premier position. In 1990 Malaysia exported 422 million ringgit worth of manufactured goods to China. That figure represents an increase of 8 percent over the 1989 figure.

Malaysian plywood is another item that appears to have a good demand in China. Last year, Malaysian firms exported about 292 million ringgit worth of plywood to the China market. The volume of electrical machinery, wire cables, and telecommunication components exported to China is still rather small. Malaysian traders are slowly getting into [word indistinct] business culture of China. They are confident that it will be possible to secure a greater volume of the China trade in the near future.

Malaysia's economic goal is to become a fully industrialized country by the year 2020. Access to larger markets is vital and China, in terms of population, is a very attactive market. China's present policy of encouraging more direct trade with Malaysia is acceptable to this country's trading community. The lifting of travel restriction to China by the Malaysian Government is also a stimulus to more trade and economic links. Chinese goods sold in Malaysia remained highly competitive. We can therefore look forward to a new era of dynamic trade link between Malaysia and China.

Indochina, Burma Said Frontiers of Opportunity

BK2304065091 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0552 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 23 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has advised Malaysian companies that Indochina and Myanmar [Burma] will be their immediate "opportunity" frontiers and they should seize the opportunities by taking part in various industries, including oil exploration and development there.

He said Malaysian companies should be able to propose various projects for implementation.

He commended the National Oil Corporation, Petronas, which through wholly-owned subsidiary Petronas Carigali [Exploration] overseas, had already participated in exploration works in Myanmar.

"The company is also planning to export its activities to Vietnam. If both these investments work out, Malaysia will be indirectly assisting in the development of Myanmar and Vietnam.

"Malaysia will benefit as its poor neighbouring countries gradually develop. Poor neighbouring countries will only curtail the development of international trade and this will not benefit a country like Malaysia whose economy depends heavily on trade," he said Monday when launching Malaysia's newest crude oil, Dulang, in Kertih town in the northeastern state of Terengganu.

Ministry Releases Statistics on Total Exports

BK2304063091 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0415 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 23 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia's total exports will increase to M [Malaysian] $102.756 billion [amount in U.S. dollars indistinct] in

1992 compared with M $79.482 billion (about U.S. $29.44 billion) in 1990, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry has forecast.

The minister, Rafidah Aziz, told trade commissioners attending an annual conference here Monday that the total value of manufactured products are expected to contribute M $66.83 billion (about U.S. $24.75 billion).

Last year manufactured products contributed M $46.654 billion [amount in U.S. dollars indistinct] of the total export value. The 1990 trade figures were also 14.7 percent higher than the M $67.824 billion (about U.S. $25.12 billion) achieved in 1989.

For this year, the Finance Ministry has forecast total exports at M $90.592 billion (about U.S. $33.55 billion).

Oil Corporation Chief on Current Oil Output

BK2304163391 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0935 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 23 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will maintain its oil production at between 630,000 and 650,000 barrels per day for the time being, despite the coming onstream of the Dulang offshore oil field said Azizan Zainul Abidin President of the National Oil Corporation, Petronas. The country's oil production capacity would rise to 690,000 bpd [barrels per day] at the end of the year when production at the Dulang offshore started, he told newsmen Monday. The Dulang field, which started commercial production on March 15 this year, now produces about 10,000 bpd.

The Dulang field is located about 130 km off the coast of the northeastern Terengganu state.

"We don't intend to raise production despite our higher capacity."

He added that the further discovery of oil by Shell at the Kinabalu field offshore Sabah in East Malaysia would help maintain the country's proven oil reserves at three billion barrels.

Asked about the national oil corporation's proposed deep sea exploration contracts, he said details would be announced by the middle of this year. The contracts would be "a little sweeter" than the existing production sharing contracts which came into force in 1985, he added.

Referring to markets for the dulang crude, he said Petronas had already found a buyer from Japan for the first shipment of 450,000 barrels which would be lifted from the "Puteri Dulang", Petronas Carigali's floating storage and offloading vessel, by mid-May.

Azizan who declined to identify the buyer or the price of the first spipment, said it had been sold "at a good price". He added that once the market became more familiar with the Dulang crude, it would fetch a good price.

Singapore

Total Trade Said Up in First Quarter of 1991

BK2304015491 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Apr 91 p 2

[All currencies in Singapore dollars]

[Text] Despite the Gulf hostilities which hit many businesses worldwide, Singapore's total trade in the first quarter rose by a healthy 11.2 per cent against the same period last year to reach $54.5 billion.

However, the growth was less than two-thirds that of the 18.9 per cent achieved in the first quarter last year.

Figures released by the Trade Development Board over the weekend showed that exports for the three months rose 12.4 per cent to total $25.3 billion.

Imports increased 10.2 percent, half the rate experienced in the 1990 period, to $29.2 billion to give a trade deficit of $3.9 billion compared to $4.1 billion for the quarter last year.

For the month of March, total trade at current prices reached $18.6 billion, 4 per cent more than in March 1990 and 11.9 per cent higher than in the previous month.

However, on a three-month moving average basis the March trade was 11.9 per cent higher than for the same month in 1990.

Domestic exports, which form two-thirds of total exports, continued to experience high growth, rising 16.7 per cent to $16.8 billion.

However, this was slower than the 21 per cent growth achieved in the first quarter of last year.

Re-exports increased a slower 4.9 per cent to $8.5 billion compared to the 11.2 per cent achieved in the same quarter last year.

By sector, oil exports grew 31 percent in the first quarter to $5.24 billion. Non-oil domestic exports totalling $11.56 billion showed a growth of 11.2 per cent.

The non-oil exports were mainly computer-related products—comprising disk drives, peripheral units, printers and tape drives.

For the quarter, Singapore's largest deficit was from its bilateral trade with Japan.

Although domestic exports to Japan grew 7.6 per cent to $2.05 billion, higher imports left a trade deficit of $3.49 billion against $3.2 billion in the first quarter of last year.

The U.S. continued to be the Republic's largest export market, accounting for 17 per cent of exports or $4.39 billion.

But the share has been decreasing, while that of Malaysia has moved up to 16.8 per cent.

The other three Asian newly industrialising economies [NIEs]—Hongkong, South Korea, and Taiwan—accounted for $3.1 billion, or 12 per cent, of Singapore's export market.

Exports to China, however, continued to decline, falling by 24 per cent in the first quarter to $262 million.

Singapore's imports from the three NIEs also declined by 5.7 per cent to $2.55 billion.

Cambodia

Government Welcomes, Supports Cease-Fire Call

BK2404063291 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Apr 91

["Statement of the State of Cambodia's Government" on 24 April—read by announcer]

[Text] On 22 April 1991, the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and the UN Secretary General jointly issued an appeal to all Cambodian parties of the conflict to observe a temporary cease-fire to start from 1 May 1991.

The State of Cambodia has repeatedly called for the quick convening of the Supreme National Council to discuss the remaining issues within the council's competence. This is as stated in the last Paris communique concerning the implementation of a voluntary cease-fire; the cessation of foreign military aid to all conflicting Cambodian parties in conformity with Soviet initiatives on a moratorium supported by the United States; calling on Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos to work toward an agreement on the cessation of transportation of all weapons and military equipment through the three respective countries' territories to the warring Cambodian factions; and on the dispatch of UN fact-finding missions to refugee camps under the control of the other Cambodian side.

Hence, this appeal would meet the aspirations of the Cambodian people and the State of Cambodia's Government. The State of Cambodia's Government, like the Cambodian people throughout the country, applauds this appeal and solemnly welcomes and supports it as a significant encouragement for the peace process in Cambodia.

With the willingness to end the people's suffering and achieve national reconciliation and peace in order to build an independent, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia, the State of Cambodia's Government hopes that the other opposing Cambodian side and concerned countries will accept the above appeal.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 24 April 1991

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Cease-Fire Appeal

BK2404073991 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0444 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 24—The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the State of Cambodia issued here on April 23 a statement outlining its position on the April 22, 1991 appeal of the co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and the secretary general of the United Nations calling for a voluntary ceasefire among the warring Khmer factions starting from May 1, 1991.

The statement said: "So far, the State of Cambodia has not yet officially received any copy of the April 22, 1991 appeal. If reports on the appeal are true, the State of Cambodia will welcome and support it, because the appeal could contribute to seeking an immediate political solution to the Cambodian problem."

"After receiving the April appeal, the Government of the State of Cambodia will issue a statement supporting it," the statement added.

SPK: U.S. Senator Sends Letter to Hor Namhong

BK2404075091 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0447 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 24—"Let me assure you that I and my government understand that your government has legitimate concerns with the U.N. plan for a resolution of the conflict in your country", said U.S. Senator John Mccain of the Republican Party in a a letter addressed to Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong following his two-day fact-finding tour of Cambodia from April 5-6.

Senator John Mccain, who was accompanied by Senator Phil Gramm, was received by National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim and Prime Minister Hun Sen during his tour of Cambodia.

In his letter, he said: "Our discussions with you, Prime Minister Hun Sen and Assembly Chairman Chea Sim were useful and informative. Both Senator Gramm and I appreciated the frankness of our exchanges. We hope that during the course of our visit some of our differences may have been narrowed.

"Let me assure you that I and my government understand that your government has legitimate concerns with the U.N. plan for a resolution of the conflict in your country. I feel your concerns can be addressed in negotiations and incorporated in the final agreement.

"Let me further assure you that the United States is not prejudiced against any faction to the conflict except the Khmer Rouge. It is of paramount importance that those negotiations resume immediately, and that your government make serious, constructive suggestions of the conflict that will unite us in to improve the plan. [sentence as received] Together, let us work toward a resolution of opposition to any violator of the agreement and bring peace to the suffering Cambodian people."

176 Students To Study in SRV in 1991-92

BK2404095891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0440 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 24—For the coming academic year (1991-92), Cambodian students will receive scholarships from four countries.

According to the Ministry of Education during the next school year, Cambodia under various cooperation agreements will send 176 students to Vietnam, five to Laos, 15 to the USSR and two others to Czechoslovakia.

The number of scholarships given by friendly countries, especially Eastern Europe, have been cut short as a result of the political changes and economic reforms there.

Last school year, of the 52 students expected to be sent to Czechoslovakia and Poland for their study there only 22 of them won their scholarships while 27 others failed to get their education in Bulgaria, Cuba and Mongolia.

To improve this situation, the Ministry of Education intends to promote local establishments of higher education in order to meet the growing number of Cambodian students.

At present, more than 3,600 Cambodian students are studying abroad, including 2,230 in USSR, 222 in Germany, [passage indistinct] in Vietnam [wordsindistinct] rest in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Cuba, Mongolia, (?Laos and India).

Over the past ten years (1980-90), Cambodia sent 7,235 students abroad for further studies.

Rebels: Moscow Continues To Supply Arms

BK2404072491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0646 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Bangkok, April 24 (AFP)—A Cambodian guerrilla group Wednesday accused the Soviet Union of continuing large-scale military supplies to Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government.

The non-communist faction of Prince Norodom Sihanouk said in a statement here that Moscow had delivered a total of 20,000 tonnes of military supplies, mainly heavy artillery shells, since the beginning of the year.

The Soviet Union has been a major backer of Phnom Penh in its war effort against guerrillas aided by China and the United States but has previously said it had stopped sending arms.

The Soviet deliveries by boat to Kompong Som, Cambodia's only deep sea port, took place in early January, February and early April, the statement said.

Prince Sihanouk's faction is one of two non-communist groups allied to the Marxist Khmer Rouge in a loose coalition to fight Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge, with huge amounts of military assistance from China, dominates the guerrilla alliance. Smaller quantities of Chinese aid go to the non-communists who also receive non-lethal supplies from the United States.

The statement, saying Vietnam was supplying arms to its client government in Phnom Penh, described as a "deceitful manoeuvre" Hanoi's calls for an end of outside military aid to all warring Cambodian factions. This, it said, was aimed at stopping the flow of aid to the guerrillas while Vietnam would continue to supply Phnom Penh.

Indonesia

No Accord at Border Meet With Papua New Guinea

BK2404035891 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0258 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Madang (PNG), April 24 (OANA-ANTARA)—The border liaison meeting (BLM) between Indonesian and Papua New Guinean delegations in Madang failed to reach agreement on the repatriation of border crossers on Monday, the first day of the meeting.

The main topic discussed at the meeting currently underway in the capital of Madang Province is the repatriation of 119 Papua New Guinean citizens who have illegally entered the Indonesian territory and 5,826 Indonesian nationals who have immigrated into Papua New Guinea.

The chairman of the Indonesian delegation, S. Wanna, disclosed at the first day of the meeting that 119 illegal immigrants from Papua New Guinea are at present found in Waris Subdistrict, Jayapura Regency, Irian Jaya.

Coming from Sandaun Province, Papua New Guinea, the 119 border crossers are now occupying several villages, comprising 71 in Yuwarinda, 21 in Banda, four in Pund, 12 in Arso, nine in Kalipau, and two in Sentani.

It was decided on the first day of the meeting that the Indonesian Government will allow officials from Vaurino, capital of Sandaun Province, to visit Waris Subdistrict and hold dialogue directly wth the 119 border crossers.

If the 119 illegal immigrants, during the dialogue, state their agreement to return to Papua New Guinea, the Indonesian and Papua New Guinean Governments will arrange their repatriation. But if they refuse to be repatriated, they will be allowed to live in Waris as the Indonesian Government has no intention of forcing them to leave the Indonesian territory as proposed by the Papua New Guinean Government.

The 119 border crossers at present reside in those villages together with their families and most of them live on farming. They are treated as Indonesian citizens, according to S. Wanna. A number of 3,594 out of the 5,826 Indonesian border crossers in Papua New Guinea are found in Western Province adjacent to the Merauke Regency, Irian Jaya, while the remaining 2,232 reside in Sandaun Province near the border with Jayapura Regency, Irian Jaya.

On the first day of the meeting, which was opened by Chairman of the Papua New Guinean delegation Matio Rabura, the Indonesian delegation will receive without sanctions if the Indonesian border crossers are prepared to return to Irian Jaya.

The Indonesian delegation also asked the Papua New Guinean Government to announce to the Indonesian border crossers the decision made by the Indonesian Government. Rabura said the Papua New Guinean Government will soon send a delegation to Waris to lure the 119 border crossers to return to their villages in that neighbouring state. He also confirmed that the Papua New Guinean Government will reject any application from Papua New Guinean border crossers for Indonesian citizenship.

In this context, he disclosed that applications for Indonesian citizenship forwarded by 21 border crossers from Boset and Wanda villages, Western Province, now residing in Muting, Merauke Regency, have been rejected. The meeting is attended by 31 delegates, comprising 17 from Papua New Guinea and 14 from Indonesia.

Suharto Receives Australian Defense Minister

BK2304120591 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Australian Defense Minister Robert Ray has reiterated that his country considers Indonesia a friend and not a threat. He told this to newsmen after paying a courtesy call on President Suharto at Bina Graha Palace, Jakarta this morning.

He said the Australian community acknowledges the economic progress and stability achieved by Indonesia. Australia considers Indonesia's achievements a contribution toward stability in this region. Robert Ray stressed Australia's desire to further develop healthy bilateral relations with Indonesia.

Meanwhile speaking separately to newsmen, Defense and Security Minister L.B. Murdani clarified that bilateral cooperation with Australia is in the form of exchange of military personnel between the two countries. Concerning unfriendly news which were circulated about Indonesia, Minister L. B. Murdani said such a problem was also discussed with Australian Defense Minister Robert Ray. Robert Ray was said to have admitted that due to the concept of freedom of the press, the Australian press sometimes exceeds tolerable limits.

According to Defense and Security Minister Murdani, Indonesia will take appropriate measures against the Australian press if they go beyond any tolerable limits.

Laos

Radio Reviews Phoun Sipaseut's Trip to Thailand

BK2304114891 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, visited Thailand from 17 to 20 April to confer the Medal of Honor of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] on Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon.

During the visit, Phoun Sipaseut, his wife, and delegation were granted an audience with their majesties the king and queen of the Kingdom of Thailand. The audience is regarded as a high honor rendered to our delegation and the entire Lao people.

Apart from that, our government delegation also paid a courtesy call on Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and held consultative meetings with Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong, and Army Command General Suchinda Khraprayun.

During the meeting with Thai Foreign Miniser Asa Sarasin, Phoun Sipaseut expressed thanks for the official visit to Thailand at the invitation of the Thai Foreign Ministry. On 17 April, he conferred the Medal of Honor, the highest distinction of the LPDR, on Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon on the occasion of her 36th birthday anniversary. Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sinrinthon visited Laos from 15 to 22 March 1990. The royal visit was regarded as a precious contribution to the strengthening of relations between the peoples and governments of the two countries.

During the meetings with the Thai leaders, the two sides attached high significance to the development of bilateral relations and mutual understanding and trust which can be testified by the withdrawal of troops from the border areas following the recent visit to Laos of Thai Army Commander General Suchinda Kraprayun. This is a good omen for cooperation between Laos and Thailand, which is the foundation for peaceful coexistence and further intimacy in the future. Both sides agreed on the improvement of the mechanism for bilateral cooperation in solving problems in all areas. Both sides agreed in principle on the establishment of a commission, under the cochairmanship of the foreign ministers of the two countries, to promote economic, social, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation, and of the border security committee, to be cochaired by high-level officials of the foreign ministries of the two countries, to oversee border stability and solve border problems at the local level. The two sides decided to continue the operation of the joint border committee, chaired by deputy foreign ministers of the two countries. The two sides will later hold discussion on the details of the aforementioned issues. Other issues raised for discussion included the refugee problem, maintenance of peace and security along the common border, transport of transit goods, exemption or reduction of import duties on Lao agricultural products, and cooperation in electricity production and tourism.

Phoun Sipaseut extended an invitation to the Thai foreign minister to pay an official visit to Laos at an appropriate time. The latter accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Thougloun Sisoulit said that the visit to Thailand was successful and will further enhance mutual understanding and the brotherly and neighborly relations between the two countries.

Phoun Sipaseut Departs on 7-Day Visit to PRC

BK2304122891 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] A delegation of the Foreign Ministry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic led by Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, this morning left Vientiane on board a special plane for a 7-day friendship visit to the PRC at the invitation of PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

During the visit, Phoun Sipaseut and his delegation are scheduled to call on a number of Chinese party and state leaders and attend the celebrations in Beijing of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Laos and China. The Lao delegation will also visit Shanghai, Kunming, and Yunnan Province.

Seeing the delegation off at Wattai Airport were Khamtai Siphandon, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and national defense minister, a number of ministers, and cadres concerned.

Liang Feng, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, and staff members of the PRC Embassy were also present at the airport.

PRC's Qian Qichen Greets Anniversary of Ties

BK2404023691 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0030 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign affairs minister, yesterday received a greetings message from Qian Qichen, member of the State Affairs Commission and PRC foreign affairs minister, on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the PRC and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The message says: China and Laos are friendly neighbors sharing the same mountain ranges and rivers, whose peoples have maintained a time-honored and traditional friendship.

China and Laos established diplomatic relations 30 years ago, an event that was significant to the development of brotherly friendship. We are very happy to see in recent years, the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries developing continuously in all fields.

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations together, in looking at the future, I firmly believe that the neighborly friendship between China and Laos will be consolidated and strengthened on the basis of the five-point principle of peaceful coexistence. May your country become prosperous and its people enjoy happiness and wealth.

Philippines

'No Objection' to Japanese Minesweepers in Gulf

OW2404121891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1153 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Manila, April 24 KYODO—The Philippines has been consulted and has posed no objection to Japan's proposal to send minesweepers to the Persian Gulf, ranking Filipino officials said Wednesday.

"We have no objection," Immanuel Yan, undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE. "This is designed to clear the Gulf of mines for the safety of navigation and that's going to benefit international shipping," he said.

Yan said the Philippines has already given its permission in case some of the minesweepers pass the U.S. Subic Naval Base, about 70 kilometers west of Manila. Asked if the Philippines did not view the sending of the minesweepers as tantamount to the sending of troops overseas, as China viewed it, Yan said, "there are no troops involved."

Yan admitted that the minesweeper crew will naturally be part of Japan's Self-Defense Forces, but he pointed out that "these are not offensive operations."

"Would we rather leave the mines there in the Gulf?" he asked. "We have to consider the purpose, if we clear the mines at the Persian Gulf, we clear the hazards to shipping," he said, adding that such a move would "benefit all countries concerned whose ships pass through the Gulf."

China had earlier cautioned Japan about the proposal saying, "whether inside Japan or in Asia, whether past or present, the question of overseas dispatch of Japanese troops is an extremely delicate issue."

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus himself confirmed that Japan was consulting the Philippines on the issue. He, however, did not want to elaborate on how the Philippines responded.

Aquino: Bases Consultations for National Interest

HK2304145791 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] President Corazon Aquino today stressed that if the executive branch holds a national consultation on the military bases issue, it would be for the good and in the interest of the country. Tanny Rodriguez reports:

[Begin recording] The president issued the statement in the face of a report stating that a number of senators allegedly will not comply with the president's personal request for the possible ratification of a treaty of amity and cooperation between the Philippines and the United States. She said that it is enough that Malacanang assures the Senate that there will be no violation of the Constitution or current laws in this move by the executive branch. However, the chief executive expressed the hope that, whatever decision Malacanang comes up with on this issue, the senators' response should be one that is for the benefit of the country and based on national interest. The president added that at present, it is not fruitful to devote so much time to discussing how to conduct a public consultation for a possible treaty, because this issue is still under negotiation. [end recording]

Groups Seek Early Public Bases Consultations

HK2404084791 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 24 Apr 91 pp 1, 25

[By E. T. Suarez]

[Text] Various labor, consumer, and political groups batted yesterday for early and wide-ranging public consultations on the issue of the American military bases in the country in accordance with the people's constitutional rights to pursue and protect within the democratic framework their legitimate and collective interests and aspirations.

The groups, led by Independent Labor Alliance of Workers (ILAW), Integrated Labor Organization (ILO-Phils.), Sandigan ng Mangagawang Pilipino (Sandigan) [Support of the Filipino worker], and the Phlippine Consumers Foundation (PCF), said public consultations on the bases issue must be conducted nationwide the moment a new treaty is signed between the Philippines and the American panels headed by Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus and Richard Armitage, respectively.

Rep. Leonardo Guerrero (LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], Cavite) came out openly in support of the public consultations on the bases issue as voiced out by President Aquino and supported by the League of Governors of the Philippines. Guerrero told newsmen that while the Constitution provides that no treaty or international agreement shall be valid and effective unless concurred in by at least two-thirds of all the members of the Senate, it is also provided that the right of the people and their organizations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making shall not be abridged. He said the fate of the U.S. bases, which affects more than 60 million Filipinos, should not be left solely to the decision of the 24 senators.

Lawyer Paterno D. Menzon, president of ILAW and co-chairman of the Labor Advisory and Consultative Council (LACC), said there is nothing wrong in holding public and nationwide public consultations on such a crucial and sensitive issue as the American military bases as long as the constitutional process for ratifying a treaty is observed.

"But if the purpose of public consultations on the bases issue is to deny the Senate its power to ratify a treaty, then we are against it and will oppose them in all public forums," Menzon said.

The Partido Mindanao [Mindanao Party], a new political party headed by Rep. Prospero Nograles (KBL [New Society Movement], Davao City), supported the public consultation process on the bases issue as planned by President Aquino, saying the only way the people of Mindanao can be heard on the matter is through a nationwide consultation on any new treaty extending the stay of the American facilities in the country. "We need to consult the people on this issue for it is only through their participation that a clear stand may be brought to the fore," Nograles said.

Nograles added that the voice of the people of Mindanao should not be silenced on a crucial issue such as a new trety on the American military bases in the country even if the island does not play host to any major foreign military facilities.

Other labor organizations like the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) and the Federation of Free Workers (FFW) have yet to come out with their stand on whether they favor public consultations before any new treaty on the U.S. bases that may be signed by the U.S. and RP [Republic of the Philippines] panels is submitted to the Senate for ratification.

Article Defends Retention of U.S. Bases

HK2404090991 Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 6 Mar 91 p 11

[By Archie A. Alvarez and Aurora Arellano Hermida]

[Text] The Filipino people are in the midst of reaching a decision which undoubtedly will chart the destiny of this country. The issue is by far the most important the present administration has to grapple with; it is also an emotional issue and could lead to divisiveness among the Filipinos. Thus it is imperative that we are made aware of its implications. This refers to the American bases in the country.

Why has our defense system become weak? Simply because we cannot afford to acquire new aircraft and radar systems as they are beyond our financial reach. An F-15 costs 20 million dollars. Where will government get money to acquire one squadron of these aircraft? Still, we find comfort in the thought that we are secure thanks largely to the protective shield provided by the American bases. Because of this bilateral security arrangement which is highly favorable to the host country, it is no wonder Brunei and Singapore have offered to host American bases in their respective countries.

The Bruneis and Singaporeans are pragmatic and thinking people who realize the importance of bases in countries as small and weak as them. The events in Afghanistan and the recent experience in Kuwait when Iraq occupied this tiny state, should be lessons for us to learn. Unfortunately, as one historian said, it is a reality that we never learn lessons from history. Indeed, if we are to remove the American bases it would be tantamount to kicking out a protector whose services are rendered for free. Not only do the bases ensure our skies are protected, their presence here gives the country tremendous economic benefits.

This brings us to the 2nd important justification for the retention of the bases. Next to the Philippine government, the American bases are the second largest employer in the country. They employ 72,000 workers. Some quarters claim these bases can be converted into commercial and industrial complexes. This raises serious doubts. Given our poor track record of implementing projects and considering the huge financial outlay needed for conversion, the plan would surely fail. In 1979, one half of the total land area of Clark Air Base, about 3,000 hectares, reverted back to the Philippine Government. One decade has passed and no single development project has risen out of the converted area. Aside from the employees of the 2 bases, about 250,000 Filipinos are indirectly benefitted for goods and services rendered to the American personnel of the bases. If these bases pull out of the country where will all these people find employment? Apparently, the Filipinos are the clear losers in case the Americans pull out these bases.

Finally, another reason for the retention of the bases is still rooted in economics. The country gets 480 million dollars yearly as compensation. Translated in pesos this is 14.4 billion pesos or about 5% of the Philippine national budget. By any stretch of imagination this is a huge amount of money. Other countries like Korea and Japan are paying for the continued stay of the Americans in their respective countries. Annual contribution to Japan for the upkeep of American bases in Japan is 2 billion dollars. It is therefore rather odd if not irrational for the Philippines with a battered economy to disregard this huge amount of money.

Given these justifications, it does not stand to reason at all why some segments of our society are still against the American bases. It can only be surmised that probably they have a different agenda or they are not aware of the facts involved.

In summary, the removal of the bases will further aggravate our economic situation and contribute to the instability of the country. Therefore the sure winners if the Americans leave the country are the leftists and ultrarightists whose aim is to destabilize the country so they can easily topple the government.

Panel To Discuss Modernization of AFP With U.S.

HK2304144891 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 0800 23 Apr 91

[Text] The modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP], particularly the Philippine Air Force and Philippine Navy, is most likely to be discussed in next week's U.S. military bases talks.

This was gathered from Pangasinan Congressman Jose de Venicia. According to De Venicia, who is the chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, the Philippine panel will ask the U.S. Armed Forces to grant the AFP a modernization program.

Under the committee of Congressman de Venicia, the Philippines will ask the United States to grant the military F-16 jet fighters amounting to $180 million. Congressman de Venicia stressed that it is only right for the Philippines to be granted this request from the United States to strengthen the country's external defense in preparation for the total phaseout of U.S. military bases.

Bases Panel Member Discusses Regional Security

BK2304155091 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 23 Apr 91

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] A senior Philippines Government spokesman says its time for Asian-Pacific countries to look after themselves more and not depend so much on the United States as a regional super-policeman. Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon is a leading member of the Manila panel negotiating with Washington over the future of the Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Bases in the Philippines. The lease on the bases expires in September and what is expected to be the final round of negotiations on their future starts in just over a week's time. At present, the Philippines hosts America's largest military facilities overseas. Mr. Bengzon spoke to Richard Andrews in Canberra.

[Begin recording] [Bengzon] I think things have essentially changed and we have to move from the concept of one super-policeman, so to speak, for the region, to a situation where the different countries in the region (?are beginning) to assume a major share of that responsibility. That is the case that the Philippines is hosting in June of this year a conference involving the different countries in the region, ASEAN countries obviously, and other countries including Japan and United States and China, precisely so that we can come to some kind of an agreement about how to preserve regional security among ourselves.

[Andrews] So, are you looking towards a NATO-style security arrangements for the Asia-Pacific region?

[Bengzon] Not necessarily, but because of theories that others have earlier, I think the era of one super-policeman in the region and the rest of the [word indistinct] is being essentially passive. We believe it has come to an end.

[Andrews] To what extent do you see Moscow's reduced military presence in Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay has led to this reduced need for the Pacific policeman?

[Bengzon] Well, I think that is part of the [word indistinct] as you could see all over the world, certainly in Europe, and we believe even in this region things have changed both essentially and militarily.

[Andrews] Do you still see the Soviet Union as a threat even in the post-Cold War era?

[Bengzon] You know they have so much of their own problems at home, especially economically, that I think energies and resources would be, of course, return to nonmilitary use.

[Andrews] So, in other words, the main regional threat has disappeared and we can look towards a reduced or shortened American presence and the region to look after itself.

[Bengzon] I believe that is a good way to summarize things.

[Andrews] A number of human rights and civil groups in your country have said that the greatest cause of civil conflict has been the presence of the bases, because there is a perception that America controls the Philippines' government policy and also it creates civil division among the different groups. To what extent do you think the presence of the bases has created civil disorder in the Philippines?

[Bengzon] The bases issue has been very (?emotional), has always been a very (?emotional) and divisive issue in our country, and so when we approach these talks we try to make a very clear distinction between that issue, as an essential security arrangement, from the broader issue of

Philippine-American relations. And our President from the very beginning has always said that we want to recast this broader relationship into something more equitable and more respectable, and not link this up with a military [word indistinct] certainly has changed its complexion because of global developments. [end recording]

Survey Shows Ramos Remains Popular Candidate

HK2404093791 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 24 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] A nationwide survey conducted earlier this month showed Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos remains popular and is likely to win over other possible presidential aspirants if elections were held today.

The survey conducted by the Krystal Research Association Inc., concluded that Sec. Ramos is "very strong to moderately strong" in the 12 regions where the poll was conducted from April 1 to 15 this year. In the National Capital Region (NCR), however, he trailed behind former Immigration chief Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

The results also showed he is strongest in Central Visayas and weakest in Central Luzon, Southern Luzon and metro Manila. He is considered strong in Ilocos, Bicol, western Mindanao and central Mindanao regions. He is moderately strong in Cagayan Valley, western Visayas, eastern Visayas, northern Mindanao and southern Mindanao.

The survey further revealed that Mrs Santiago and Senator Joseph Estrada would probably win in Metro manila. Senate president Jovito Salonga and businessman Eduardo Cojuangco also fared well. Surprisingly though, Speaker Ramon Mitra was described as "relatively weak" in all regions, including Southern Luzon which is considered his bailiwick.

On a national level, Mr. Ramos and Mrs. Santiago are expected to corner more than 50% of the votes, followed by Mr. Salonga with 17%, 13% for Mr. Cojuangco and 8% for Mr Mitra. The survey also revealed that the President had a 48% approval rating in Metro Manila.

The defense secretary is expected to join the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [LDP—Struggle of Philippine Democrats] on Saturday. His close advisers, however, are asking him not to join because Mrs Aquino and the LDP members' low approval rating will pull down his popularity.

Aquino: Rebels Incapable of Destabilization Move

HK2404093891 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] President Corazon Aquino stated in total confidence that the rightist or leftist rebels are incapable of carrying out a major destabilization move in the country. The president issued this following the published expression of support by the Young Officers Union, a rightist rebel group, for the statements of resigned deputy chief of staff, Major General Alexander Aguirre. Here is Tanny Rodriguez with the details:

[Begin recording] Aguirre said he will submit remedial legislation to Congress that will create a presidential advisory council. One of these is the insulation of the military from politics, especially in the promotion system.

In this connection, the president rejected Aguirre's proposal to submit remedial legislation to Congress which would create a presidential advisory council and board of governors which would advise the president on the conduct of promotion and appointments in the Armed Forces. The president said she believes there is no need to alter the system for the appointment of the chief of staff, which should also be upheld by the next president of the country. She added that the president assumes sole responsibility for the decision to appoint a chief of staff. She clarified that anybody who had advised her on the choice for the military chief's position should not be made responsible to the people because this decision is the president's personal prerogative. [end recording]

Commander Reports 70 Rebels Killed in 1st Quarter

HK2404062391 Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog 24 Apr 91 p 2

[By J.F. Gonzales]

[Text] Camp Aquino, Tarlac—Seventy rebels were killed, 72 surrendered, 39 high-powered firearms were confiscated, and 151 barangays were liberated from the Communist Party of the Philppines-New People's Army [CPP-NPA] during the military's tactical operations in the first quarter of the year. Northern Luzon Command [Nolcom] Chief Brigadier General Ernesto Calupig said his men captured a top CPP-NPA official operating in Tarlac. The rebel was identified as Arnold Arcilla, alias Commander Carlo, of the Provincial Operations Committee. He was arrested while collecting taxes from residents of Bamban Town.

Calupig's report included the separate arrests of two rebel soldiers involved in the 1989 failed coup. Ex-Captain Edgardo Divina of the Philippine Army was captured in Nueva Ecija and Captain Juancho Sugbban of the Philippine Navy was captured in Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

The liberation of barangays, rounding up of rebels, and confiscation of firearms were the results of a three-month long operation launched by the Nolcom in Regions 1 to 3. There was a total of 4,015 tactical operations during this period, 90 of them involved bloody fights. Calupig also reported that 49 soldiers were killed while 29 firearms were lost.

The Nolcom commander ordered all field commanders in yesterday's meeting to completely quell the communist guerrilla operations. He added that the rebel black propaganda is a big obstacle in crushing communism in the country because when military operatives kill the rebels they are accused of human rights violations, but if soldiers are killed by the enemy the Human Rights Commission is silent.

The Nolcom field commanders believe that the communist rebels have abandoned northern Luzon because of the reduced tactical operations. The people in the region continue to cooperate with the military since they report the communists' activities. Civil military operations officer Major MacArthur Cruz said the people's cooperation with the military has helped greatly.

10 Rebels Killed in Kalinga-Apayao Encounter

HK2404062191 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Ten communist rebels were killed in an encounter with a joint force comprising elements from the Philippine National Police [PNP] and Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units [CAFGU] in Kalinga-Apayao. Jim Belasano reports:

[Begin recording] According to a delayed report which reached the office of the PNP chief, Director General Cesar Nazareno, in Camp Crame, the three PNP-CAFGU teams were on a combat patrol when they encountered about 70 communist rebels in Sitio Kulilintao, Barangay Raduat, Cabugao, Kalinga-Apayao. The report said that the brief gunfight resulted in the killing of 10 communist rebels. Recovered from the clash site were an M-14 rifle, a stethoscope and other medical instruments, and subversive documents. No one was reported killed on the government side. [end recording]

NPA 'Directly Supporting' Davao Labor Movement

HK2404075791 Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 8 Mar 91 pp 1, 11

[By Lieutenant Colonel Nelson Estares]

[Text] Two previous incidents related to the KMU [1 May Movement] sponsored strike now raging in the Davao Light and Power Company [DLPC] can be considered as proofs that the New People's Army [NPA] in the hinterland of Davao City are directly supporting the KMU strikers in the said company.

Last February 18, 1991, Davao Light employees aboard a Ford Fiera while at Paradise Embac, Paquibato District, Davao City in implementation of the mini-hydro electric project for Pacquibato District, were held up by a group of NPAs under alias Parago who carnapped their vehicle. Later on, one Comdr Remo demanded from the company P [Philippine pesos] 50,000 and five (5) units of ICOM handheld radios for the peaceful implementation of the hydro electric project and the carnapped vehicle. When the company did not agree to the demand, the NPAs brought the vehicle to Lubas in Paquibato. The DLPC crew were released.

On the late evening of March 31, 1991, three (3) NPAs attempted to topple down the NPC [National Power Corporation] substation at Mintal, this city by burning the main transmission post that connects to the mainline servicing Davao City, Davao del Sur and Davao del Norte. However, alert DLPC and NPC employees put out the fire and reinforced the smoldering main transmission post. Had the main post toppled, the entire City and the provinces of Davao del Norte and del Sur would have suffered a power brownout for a day or two. These two incidents pinpoint to the Communist Party and New People's Army support to the KMU strikers who were then in the process of holding a bargaining agreement with the DLPC management.

The KMU led strike at the Davao Light and Power strike can be viewed as a micro-dimension of the CPP/NPA/NDF [Communist Party of the Philippines/National Democratic Front] strategic goal of reviving its dwindling strength and sympathizers in Davao City by flexing its leftist labor activity, particularly in vital industries such as light and power, water districts/systems, airports, piers, dollar earning industries and multi-national corporations.

The organization tasked to implement this goal is the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) as an above ground organization and the katipunan ng Mga Rebolusyonaryong Manggagawa (KRM) [Association of Revolutionary Workers] as its underground apparatus. And this is the only remaining organizations from which the CPP/NPA can grow from, draw members and cadres, and generate finances by centralized exaction of party dues/fees which are then rechanneled to the NPA armed elements to keep them operating.

The strategic objective of infiltrating and controlling labor unions of vital industries such as Davao Light and Power, the Davao City Water District, the dollar earning industries and multi-national corporations, eventually the airport and wharves stevedoring unions is to economically cripple major cities such as Davao by a simultaneous strike of all the unions in the said vital industries.

This objective is the CPP/NPAs alternative to the Welgang Bayan which has miserably failed to cripple Davao City and the nation after several attempts as it generated negative public support and has even resulted in the "isolation" of the KMU.

The greatest irony is that while the Communist countries in Eastern Europe and states of the Soviet Union and the workers in China are turning towards Western type economic systems, the KMU unions are still gunning for the Communist economic theories which have been proven to be an utter failure.

Davao City-wise, by the strike alone, the people are losing especially the unemployed and the under-employed. They are losing a chance to get decent jobs as would-be investors are discouraged to come and establish new companies and industries. For Davao City to economically prosper, the spirit should be one that should provide a come on to new investors who can employ sizable number of Dabawenyos. We just have to place the welfare of our city ahead of personal vested interests and the interest of a small minority of the people who have the propensity for violence class struggle and initiation of conflicts.

Thailand

Premier To Lift Martial Law in 'Early May'

BK2304140891 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] In connection with Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's remarks earlier that martial law will be lifted soon, the prime minister gave an interview with correspondents today, saying that martial law will be lifted in early May and assuring that activities by labor activists have nothing to do with the planned lifting.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Anan] I expect to be able to lift martial law in early May.

[Unidentified correspondent] What factors have prevented it from being lifted?

[Anan] I will let you know later.

[Correspondent] Do they concern the labor issue?

[Anan] No, they are not connected.

[Correspondent] After the martial law is lifted, will political comments be allowed?

[Anan] Political comments will be allowed as they are now. The only thing the martial law prohibits is political gatherings of more than five people. Other forms of freedom, including comments by the press or politicians, have not been deprived and will continue to be permitted as before. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Deputy Defense Minister General Wimon Wongwanit said to correspondents today that it is up to the prime minister to decide when to lift martial law. He noted that the lifting of martial law was not discussed in the Cabinet meeting today.

In addition, the prime minister said the government has been working with the National Peacekeeping Assembly [NPA] smoothly and without confusion.

[Begin Anan recording, in progress] I don't know where the alleged confusion arose from. As far as I am concerned, there has been absolutely no confusion. We have the NPA and we have the government; their relationship is clearly defined in the provisional Constitution. The conduct of duties in the past six to seven weeks has been smooth; there has been no confusion between the NPA and the government, as well as with myself. I don't know where the alleged confusion came from.

As far as the NPA's plan to appoint its advisory or spokesperson team, that is the NPA's affairs. Those bodies will perform within their scopes. [end recording]

Officers Appointed to Boards of State Enterprises

BK2404025991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Apr 91 pp A1, A2

[Text] Thirteen active military officers were appointed to the board of directors of the six state enterprises under the Interior Ministry in a reshuffle approved by the Cabinet yesterday.

The sweeping reshuffle, proposed by Interior Minister Itsarapong Nunphakdi, saw the purging of board members appointed under the auspices of the former interior ministers, Praman Adireksan and Banhan Sinlapa-acha of Chat Thai Party.

A press release issued by the government house yesterday gave no reason for the reshuffle which was the first in state enterprises since the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) seized power in a coup on Feb 23. The reshuffle was made after the government successfully banned unions at all state enterprises.

Many of the military men put in charge of the new boards are Class-5 graduates of the Chunlachomklao Royal Military Academy and closely linked to the military junta. Most prominent of them are First Army Region Commander Lt Gen San Siphen, Commander of the First Army Division Maj Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi, Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff AVM [Air Vice Marshal] Wiraphong Singhaseni, Army Deputy Chief of Staff Lt Gen Pramon Phalasin and Navy Deputy Chief of Staff Vice Adm Surawut Maharom.

The six state enterprises which underwent reshuffle are the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA), the Market Organization (MO), the Expressway and Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand (ETA), the National Housing Authority (NHA), the Provincial Waterworks Authority (PWA) and the Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA).

Lt Gen San was appointed to the MEA board, Maj Gen Chainarong to the ETA board, AVM Wiraphong to the PEA board, Lt Gen Pramon to the NHA board and Vice Adm Surawut to the PWA board.

Other military men appointed the boards are Lt Gen Loet Phungphak (PEA), Vice Adm Prida Kansu (PEA), ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong (ETA), Rea Adm Kasemsak Phombut (NHA), AM [Air Marshal] Rangsan Tikhara (NHA), Lt Gen Thawan Sawaengphon (PWA), Rear Adm Nawi Santikanawin (MEA) and AM Sane Ngamla-miat (MEA).

The Cabinet yesterday also approved a reshuffle of five provincial governors and a senior official of the ministry.

Asa Says U.S. 'Unlikely' To Apply Section 301

BK2304140391 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Answering reporters's questions concerning the Japanese prime minister's upcoming visit to Thailand at the end of this month, after attending the Cabinet meeting this afternoon, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said that he had not yet consulted with the prime minister on this issue. Regarding the call for the lifting of martial law before the Japanese prime minister's visit to Thailand, he said that these two matters are not related. We should not pay too much attention to such issues.

Regarding talks with the United States concerning the application of Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act to Thailand, the foreign minister said that he was waiting for information from the Commerce Ministry. However, he thought that it is unlikely that the United States will use Section 301 against Thailand because Thailand is in the process of solving the problems. For example, the drug patent draft and the intellectual property rights proposal will be submitted to the National Legislative Asesembly for consideration. This should not be construed to mean that Thailand is yielding to U.S. pressure. On the contrary, Thailand is merely looking after its trade interests.

Commentary on U.S. 'New World Order', Cambodia

BK2404082191 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] It should be noted that the heated issue in the beginning of the 1990's is the American dream of a new world order. However, many scholars and diplomats are discussing about the concept of the new world order without certain definition. In general view, the Americans believe that the United States can now be the leader of the world with support from their European and Japanese allies, together with the consent of the Soviet Union in the framework of the United Nations.

Recently, President George Bush has revealed the principles of American new world order concept in his speech to the [name indistinct] College students. Mr. President said that the new world order comprises four principles, namely peaceful settlement of disputes, solidarity against aggression, reduced and controlled arsenals, and just treatment for all peoples. However, Mr. Bush added that this strategy depended largely on the success of the formation [as heard] in the Soviet Union and Europe's willingness to support world peace and stability. Actually, the American principles of the new world order are nothing new. These principles have been stated in the United Nations Charter since its birth but have never been implemented due to superpowers' conflicting interests. In the past, the United Nations could not perform its function of safeguarding world peace and order because the superpowers in the United Nations Security Council always vetoed any resolution that may affect their national interests. Drastic changes in the Soviet Union, for example, rising out of the reformers and the downfall of communism in Eastern Europe, are certain causes that led to the end of the Cold War, which prevailed in world politics for more than 40 years. The socialist countries have now turned their policies to the development of the nation instead of arms races and military confrontation.

More interestingly, superpowers, which are permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, have forgot their past conflicts and turned to cooperate for peace and stability since 1990. In August 1990, they proposed a peace plan to end the civil war to Cambodian warring factions. One month later, the Cambodian factions accepted the United Nations peace proposal.

Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was another showcase demonstrating the cooperation among superpowers. In this matter, all superpowers in the United Nations Security Council have shown their solidarity to resist Iraqi aggression. It seems that superpowers are coming around the right track, for example, maintaining world peace and order. However, it would be regrettable if the principles of the new world order are implemented with double standards. This is the imminent prospect of the cutback in American humanitarian aid to the communist Cambodian resistance groups. [as heard] The American administration has already suspended U.S. $7-million aid to the two noncommunist Cambodian resistance factions on the ground that they are cooperating with the Khmer Rouge. It also believes that the U.S. Congress may terminate the total U.S. $20-million aid program for 1991.

It is evident that the root cause of the Cambodian issue is the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia and the installation of Vietnam's puppet regime in Phnom Penh. Although the Vietnamese withdrew most of their troops from Cambodia, the puppet regime is still in power to serve Vietnam's interests. The Cambodian people have not had the right to self-determination by free and fair elections. The Vietnamese and the Phnom Penh regime always raise its sovereignty and the return of the Khmer Rouge as preconditions for not implementing the United Nations peace plan.

Unfortunately, American perception toward the Cambodian issue is different from its perception toward the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, even if they are the same category of conflicts—the use of forces by one country to occupy another and setting up a puppet regime to rule the seized country.

In the case of Cambodia, the United States not only ignores the victims but also supports the aggressors by cutting out its aid to the noncommunist Cambodian resistance forces and begins the task to normalize its relationship with Vietnam. To comply with American idea of a new world order, it would be appropriate if the United States reconsiders its policy toward Cambodia. If the principles of solidarity against aggression and of just treatment of all peoples are real—two from four principles of American new world order—the verification of Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Cambodia and the exercise of the right to self-determination of the Cambodian people by free and fair elections should be taken into action seriously.

Moreover, the continuity of aid to the two noncommunist Cambodian resistance groups should be carried on in order to create their counterweight measures in relation with the Khmer Rouge and the Phnom Penh regime. The termination of any assistance may allow either the Khmer Rouge or the Phnom Penh regime to take full power in Cambodia, which will not create the peaceful atmosphere in this region in the future.

Official Discusses Asa's Planned Trip to Vietnam

BK2404015191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Apr 91 p A2

[Text] Thailand and Vietnam are expected to sign an agreement on establishing a ministerial-level joint commission to oversee bilateral cooperation on economy and trade during Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin's visit to Vietnam, a senior official at the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

Permanent Secretary Witthaya Wetchachiwa said the establishment of the commission was discussed during his meeting with Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai when they talked about bilateral cooperation, Asa's planned visit and preparations for an upcoming summit between prime ministers of the two countries.

Witthaya said the commission would facilitate expanding the areas of cooperation between the two countries, particularly the increasing contacts between Thailand's private sector and the private sector of Vietnam which is mostly government-controlled.

Witthaya said a systematic framework was necessary as a guideline for the private sector which had to deal directly with the government of the communist country. The permanent secretary said the Vietnamese side was receptive to the Thai-proposed joint commission idea but details regarding the mandate and structure of the commission needed further discussion. However, he said the commission might follow the model Thailand now uses with China, with the co-chairmen positions being filled by the deputy foreign ministers of both countries.

Witthaya said that during yesterday's meeting the two sides also discussed the draft agreement on Investment Protection in Vietnam but Vietnam needed time for further consideration since the draft contains elements that are not compatible with its existing laws.

The Thai government has prepared three draft agreements—on investment protection, exemption of double taxation and establishment of a joint commission—which it hopes can be signed during the Summit, but so far the Vietnamese side has replied with a counter draft only on the double taxation exemption.

Witthaya said a date for Asa's visit had yet to be fixed but it could not be before June since Asa has a full schedule through May and Vietnam would be busy preparing for the communist party congress in June. Witthaya said Thailand has also taken into account the possibility that there could be a cabinet reshuffle in Vietnam in the aftermath of the congress. Thailand, he said, was not stalling its decision on the visit but simply needs to ensure that the visit would be a success. We are not in a rush just to have a symbolic visit or a visit for propaganda reasons. We need something concrete," he said.

Both sides earlier on Monday exchanged views on international issues—US President George Bush's "New World Order" in particular, and regional issues including the Cambodian problem.

Burmese Students Ask Premier To Help Detainees

BK2404032991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Apr 91 p 6

[Text] A group of exiled Burmese students in Thailand yesterday asked Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to secure the release of about 40 fellow students they claim have been detained beyond their sentences in Bangkok.

The Overseas National Students' Organisation of Burma, in an open letter to the Prime Minister yesterday, alleged that the students, convicted of illegal entry, are being held at the Immigration detention centre although they have completed their jail terms.

"They seem to have no chance of hoping for a day when they would be released after being kept behind bars for four or five months," the group said. "We feel deep sorrow for these innocent students who are unreasonably detained (for an) uncommonly extended period as they have entered Thailand simply because they face brutal suppression by the military dictators at home" the letter said.

The group called on Mr Anan to take any possible measure that would pave way for their immediate freedom, and this commitment would "help shape better understanding between democracy-loving people of the two countries."

Paper Questions Fitness of Burmese Junta To Rule

BK2404034391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Apr 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Bizarre Logic in a Troubled Land"]

[Text] The reasoning of the Burmese military junta would make a world-class satire if it were not so cynical. According to deputy army commander Gen Than Shwe, there is no civilian group capable of governing the country. For this reason, the general stated in Rangoon, the army will continue to rule. Speculation that next month's anniversary of peaceful, popular and widely celebrated elections would bring concessions from the junta died on Monday. Elected representatives will remain under arrest without trial, or frightened into silence. Burma will pass the first birthday of its elections under a 30-year dictatorship.

The only commendable point about Gen Than Shwe's speech was its blunt honesty. Other than this, the short statement contained some of the strangest reasoning seen in this part of the world in some time. Most political parties are subversive and unfit to rule, according to him. "We cannot find any organisation that can govern the country in a peaceful and stable manner."

In fact, the army found exactly such a group 11 months ago. After a needlessly tense run-up, Burma held a general election. Daw Aung Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy won the election. As a result, she and party leaders were jailed or placed under house arrest. No charge ever has been made against her—she simply languishes at home. She is as much a non-person as ever a communist government has created. At the moment, no civilian political leader is free in Burma. Reports of torture are even more frequent than those of imprisonment without recourse to the law.

The irony lies in the fact that the elections were permitted, organised and celebrated by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the junta's official name. They were peaceful, and they were free. For the past 11 months, the Burmese army has alternately repressed and dissembled. But the fact is that the election of last May 27 was an army show. If, as Gen Than Shwe says, the election winners are unfit, the blame is the Burmese army's. SLORC officers picked and vetted all candidates and all parties. From 96 political parties, all approved by Gen Than Shwe and the rest of the junta, Burmese voters selected Mrs Suu Kyi's army-approved party overwhelmingly.

Logically, then, it seems pertinent to pose the question of who is unfit to rule Burma. If last year's elections were so badly organised that only subversives and incompetents were elected, surely it is the organisers who are incapable. Gen Than Shwe's reasoning that those who bungled the elections make up the only group fit to hold power is strange, to say the least. Burma's army continues to rule via the gun. The regime has been strongly criticised by the United Nations, Amnesty International and most foreign governments. Burmese live in fear of SLORC's knock on the door, and the military has successfully silenced all public opposition with violence. It has been voted out of power, demonstrated out of power, and ostracised out of power by Burmese citizens and foreign voices alike. Only brute force has kept it in power.

Such force is, of course, a mighty weapon when turned against citizens by its rulers. But Gen Than Shwe's arguments about SLORC's moral right to hold power in Rangoon are as hollow as any heard in recent years. The last words of deposed dictators by the score are always variations on the infamous "I am the state," issued just before the French Revolution.

Burmese are not the only people in the world put upon by their self-appointed leaders. But Burma is one of the longest-suffering such countries. SLORC's public decision to continue to hold power is deplorable, not least because for a brief period last year, it held out the hope of political freedom to the Burmese. Gen Than Shwe has finally crushed the last glimmer of hope that SLORC will negotiate a power-sharing arrangement with the elected representatives of Burma. There can be no doubt now that Burma is a dictatorship.

Vietnam

NHAN DAN Hails Call for Cambodian Cease-Fire

BK2404064891 Hanoi VNA in English 0551 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—The national daily NHAN DAN today welcomes the proposal of the co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC) and the UN secretary general that a cease-fire between the warring Khmer factions be effected from May 1st to at least the end of the meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia scheduled to take place in Jakarta, Indonesia, mid-May this year.

"This is a well-intentioned proposal aimed at speeding up an overall political solution to the Cambodian question," says the paper.

It continues:

"It is now most imperative that all Khmer parties show self-restraint to achieve a cease-fire and reconvene the meeting of the SNC to discuss and solve all internal affairs of Cambodia. Prompted by its high sense of responsibility towards the destiny of its country, the State of Cambodia has repeatedly called for the reconvening of the SNC meeting, a cease-fire, an end to foreign military aid to all Cambodian factions and the dispatch of a UN mission to the refugee camps and areas controlled by the opposition Khmer factions."

"It is the fervent hope of all that from May 1st the guns will fall silent in the whole territory of Cambodia and this temporary cease-fire will become a formal cease-fire so that peace will return soon to the Cambodian people for the sake of peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

"To create favourable conditions for such a cease-fire and the way to ending the civil war in Cambodia, all countries concerned should respond to the Sept. 1989 Soviet-U.S. proposal for a moratorium on military supplies to all Khmer parties and to the Feb. 28 statement of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry," the paper concludes.

Article Reinforces Traditional Indochinese Ties

BK2304063591 Hanoi TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN in Vietnamese Feb 91 pp 72-75

[Article by Pham Xuan Que, head of the party Central Committee Department of Foreign Relations: "Some Reflections on the Relations Between Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia in the New Situation"]

[Text] Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia have coexisted on the Indochina peninsula, sharing mountains and rivers, for thousands of years, shaping political, economic, and cultural relations among the peoples of the three countries. When the French colonialists invaded and turned the three Indochinese countries into their colonies, the latter then had one common enemy and shared the same earnest aspiration for independence, freedom, and happiness. Geopolitics has always been an important factor in determining the relations among the three countries. Against such a background, the peoples of the three countries had no other choice but to unite and rally together to liberate their nations.

The birth in 1939 of the Indochinese Communist Party [ICP], which was founded and trained by President Ho Chi Minh, marked the historic turning point of the revolution in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. It not only brought about a correct line for the revolution in the three countries, but also marked a qualitative change in the relations among the peoples of the three countries. The three parties—the Communist Party of Vietnam, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party—which grew from the ICP and carried on its cause, constitute a fine example and the main origin of the special relations of solidarity and friendship among the revolutions and peoples of the three countries.

After half a century or so of standing shoulder to shoulder, and of militant solidarity, stalwart revolution, and mutual assistance, the revolution in each individual country—though having taken its own special steps—finally succeeded in totally liberating each individual country at nearly the same juncture. Fighting together and winning victories together have become a historic reality for the revolutions of the three countries, despite the fact that ever since then the Cambodian people have had to continue their political and armed struggle to defend their revolutionary gains and national independence and sovereignty, and to seek a fair and reasonable political solution to the Cambodian issue.

Proceeding from this historic reality, the three parties have stated that the relations of militant solidarity among themselves and the peoples of the three countries in the revolution to liberate the nations, the integrated strength of each nation and of the three nations, and the combination of national strength with the strength of the era, constitute not only a historic necessity and a strategic matter of life and death, but also a source of great strength, a binding matter, and one of the factors which decided the victories of the revolution in each country and of the three countries. This is an extremely valuable tradition and a just reason for pride of the peoples of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

Because Vietnam has a larger population and greater potential than the other two friendly countries, the parties and peoples of Laos and Cambodia entrusted Vietnam with serving as the core of militant solidarity among the three countries in the revolution for national liberation. Our party, state, and people voluntarily shouldered and gloriously fulfilled this historic mission. We correctly carried out Uncle Ho's teaching that "Helping friends is helping ouselves". Proceeding from both international duties and the genuine interests of our nation and revolution, our party and people united and coordinated with the two friendly countries to assist their revolutions. At the same time, we always realized that this mutual assistance is voluntary and equal. We help our friends who in turn help us. The sympathy, support, and assistance provided by the parties and peoples of the two friendly countries for the revolution in our country is extremely great, valuable, and effective for which our party and people will be forever grateful. Without coordination among the three battlefields and without the Ho Chi Minh trail running through the three countries, it would have been difficult to visualize the total victory of our revolution.

The great victories of Vietnam and Laos in totally liberating their countries in 1975, together with the Cambodian people's victory in 1979, opened a new page of history and a new stage and raised to a completely new qualitative level the special relationship among the parties and peoples of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The main characteristics of this relationship are:

—The relationship among the parties and peoples has shifted to that among the parties, states, and peoples. Only at this stage have adequate factors developed for the fine relations of traditional solidarity and friendship among the three countries. The relationship among the three independent and sovereign states is a most important characteristic which has profoundly influenced relations among the three countries. The relationship among the parties also bears the new nature and characteristic of one among three ruling parties;

—The scope of relations has also changed very basically from being mainly in the political, military, and diplomatic spheres to the new relations in which besides the traditional aspects, economic and cultural cooperation have become an extremely important domain upon which to lay the foundation for long-term relations among the three countries.

These fundamental changes have taken place at a time when the situation in the world and the region is undergoing great, rapid, and complex changes; the revolution in the three countries has matured; and the three countries have truly mastered their own renovation process and maintained diplomatic and foreign economic relations in a very diversified manner depending on the positions, demands, and interests of each individual country.

The aforementioned characteristics and settings have strongly influenced the relations among the three parties and countries in the new stage. On the one hand, the traditional solidarity and friendship and close cooperation among the three parties and countries must be firmly maintained and strengthened; and on the other, the relations among the three countries must be truly renovated in terms of quality, scope, procedures, and mechanism to suit the new situation in the three countries and the general trends of the era.

For the above reasons, we concur with our party's draft platform for socialist construction in the transitional period which clearly specifies that we "extremely treasure and develop the traditional relationship that our people, together with the Lao and Cambodian peoples, have created during the long struggle for the independence and freedom of each individual country, and will do our utmost to protect and develop that fine tradition in the new stage." With regard to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, we concur in the 4 July 1989 joint communique between the high level CPV delegation led by General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and the high level LPRP delegation led by General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan which stipulates: "Both sides affirm they will continually strengthen and develop the special, traditional, and close relationship between the two parties, states, and peoples of Vietnam and Laos."

During the meeting on the occasion of the LPDR's 15th national day in Vientiane on 2 December 1990, Laos' high level party-state delegation led by General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan, Cambodia's high level party-state delegation led by General Secretary Heng Samrin, and Vietnam's high level party-state delegation led by Chairman Vo Chi Cong continued to stress: "The three delegations asserted that they would do their utmost to consolidate and strengthen the relations of solidarity, close friendship, and comprehensive cooperation among Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia in the interests of the peoples of the three countries and for the sake of peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia."

Proceeding from these basic viewpoints of our party and state, we cannot agree with the few people who want to lower and shift this relationship among the three countries to the level of an ordinary international relationship of the type shared by many countries. At the same time, neither can we support the former shopworn formula for the relationship. All words and deeds which bear a negative and weakening effect on the traditional relationship among the peoples of the three countries are harmful to the genuine interests and revolutionary cause of each individual country and all three as a whole.

We think that in the present stage, the relations among the three countries are based on voluntariness, equality, mutual respect for independence and sovereignty, noninterference in internal affairs, imposition of neither viewpoints nor patterns on one another, collective responsibility and solidarity, and mutual aid depending on the realistic capacity of each party and each country. The mechanism of relations based on red tape and subsidization is absolutely no longer suitable and must be vigorously shifted to the mechanism of equal cooperation benefitting all sides. In the new situation, it is necessary to emphasize and vigorously accelerate economic and cultural cooperation among the three countries for practical and qualitative results aimed at tapping the economic strengths and resources of each country and at exchanging mutual support for national construction in each country. As for the domain of national defense and strategy of security and defense, a relationship of mutual assistance has always existed among the peoples and armies of the three countries. Suffice it to say that the recent success of the Lao people and troops in smashing the reactionary teams of Hoang Co Minh and Tran Van Do, which tried to infiltrate our country via Laos to conduct subversive activities in the western area, can be cited as valuable help and support for the defense of security in our country.

We think that under any circustances, we should always thoroughly understand and correctly implement the viewpoints of our party and state concerning relations with the two friendly countries, and should treasure, defend, and develop this traditional relationship among Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, keeping it green, fresh, and lasting forever.

Soviet Envoy on Do Muoi, Nguyen Van Linh Visits

BK2404074791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0357 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi, April 22 (AFP)—Vietnam's Communist Party chief Nguyen Van Linh and Prime Minister Do Muoi are expected to visit the Soviet Union in May for important talks, Soviet diplomats announced here Monday.

Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam Rashid Khamidulin said there was a "strong possibility" that Mr. Do Muoi and Mr. Linh would visit the Soviet Union for "political and, above all, economic talks."

Another Soviet source said Mr. Do Muoi had been due to visit Moscow April 12-15 and Mr. Linh was to have visited April 22-28, but the visits were postponed at Moscow's request. Mr. Do Muoi's visit will focus on economic cooperation between the two countries, said Mr. Khamidulin. The ambassador said recently it was a "tradition" for communist party leaders of former East Bloc nations to travel to Moscow before party congresses.

The Vietnamese Communist Party is due to hold its party congress in June after repeatedly postponing it over difficulties in forging a consensus on a political platform proposed by its leaders but rejected by intellectuals and youths demanding more democracy. Hanoi has criticized the democratic reforms sweeping the old Soviet bloc and has reaffirmed its adherence to socialism.

The Soviet Union is Vietnam's main trading partner and source of foreign aid. But this year Moscow has cut back on aid to Vietnam and is now conducting its trade on a hard currency basis and at world market prices instead of by barter and at subsidized prices as before.

According to the Soviet Embassy, Soviet aid to Vietnam this year will be reduced to some $100 million in long term credits and $10 million in grants. Annual Soviet aid to Vietnam averaged some $2 billion in the last decade.

"There are many difficulties and the problems are not simple in this transition period" in economic relations between the two countries, Mr. Khamidulin said, adding that there was a "strong desire on the part of both parties to solve them." He added that Hanoi and Moscow were discussing the issue of whether Soviet military aid to Hanoi would be paid in dollars.

"Military cooperation will continue, but under a form that is under discussion," he said, declining to reveal the amount of annual military aid. "We continue to reduce our presence at the Cam Ranh Bay naval and air base and we no longer maintain a strong permanent naval or air presence there," he said.

NHAN DAN Marks Lenin's Birth Anniversary

BK2204092891 Hanoi VNA in English 0620 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Marking the 121st birth anniversary of V.I. Lenin, the national daily NHAN DAN editorially says:

"Marxism-Leninism is, now as before, the path of liberating our people and the lodestar of the Vietnamese revolution."

The central organ of the Communist Party of Vietnam continues:

"There remains a wide gap between the theory of socialism and realities of life. This is an indication of crisis. However, Marxism-Leninism remains a revolutionary doctrine and a science of life and retains the entirety of its fundamental values. In human history, a series of social theories have seen the light but none has been able to rally in so short a time and with such a force millions of people into the struggle for changing the destiny of so many nations as Marxism-Leninism did."

Leninism is not a new doctrine beside Marxism but the development of Marxism in the new period. The emergence of Leninism demonstrated that Marxism has opened great possibilities of mankind to widen its search for truth in the evolution of the social and ideological history.

Leninism is inseparable from the triumph of the Russian October Revolution which opened up realistic possibilities for the oppressed peoples to win in their national liberation fights, the capability of turning socialism from a scientific thought into a social entity.

Whatever ups and downs it has gone through, Leninism has undeniably exerted a tremendous influence on the political structure of the world. It is obvious that the deep-reaching and extensive changes on our planet in this 20th century are closely linked with the great motive force generated by Marxism-Leninism.

NHAN DAN goes on: "All shortcomings and errors in building the old model of socialism cannot be imputed to Marxism-Leninism itself. Instead, they originated from the erroneous viewpoint of those who have tied themselves to inadequate perceptions. However, through errors, mankind will mature and go forward. Socialism is a new stage of development of history in which mankind will be able to avoid the horrendous crimes of capitalism and its predecessor."

"In the struggle of the Vietnamese people for national liberation, the Vietnamese Communists have made valuable contributions. The errors and shortcomings we made in the recent past have resulted from our inadequate understanding of the revolutionary and scientific tenets of Marxism-Leninism and from our lack of independent and sovereign thingking while tackling problems arising from the realities of the Vietnamese revolution," the paper stresses.

It concludes: "In the draft documents to be presented at the coming 7th National Party Congress, our entire party and people have strongly reaffirmed our stance to follow the revolutionary path of Marxism-Leninism charted by President Ho Chi Minh and to take our revolutionary cause to new successes."

Le Quang Dao Greets Albanian Assembly President

BK2404024691 Hanoi VNA in English 1241 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 23—Chairman of the National Assembly Le Quang Dao on April 21 sent a message of congratulations to Kastriot Islami on his election as president of the People's Assembly of Albania.

The message wishes for further consolidation and development of the friendship and cooperation between the people and legislature bodies of the two countries.

NHAN DAN Welcomes Indian President's Visit

BK2404074691 Hanoi VNA in English 0556 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—The paper NHAN DAN of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee today editorially welcomes Indian President R. Venkataraman's Vietnam visit starting here this afternoon as a "new step in further strengthening the relations between Vietnam and India."

The paper says:

"This is an important political event demonstrating the aspiration and determination of the leaders and peoples of the two countries to further develop their friendship and multifaceted cooperation, taking the two fraternal nations' causes to the new peak in the present international complicated situation."

It praises President Venkataraman as a well known cultural and social activist, a combatant who has tirelessly struggled for independence, freedom and peace of the Indian people.

The paper goes on:

"The achievements gained by the Indian people in their self-reliant spirit in socio-economic development, together with the government and people's effective efforts aimed at consolidating the solidarity and unity bloc of all nationalities living in the beautiful native land of Mahatma Gandhi, are an important guarantee for India's stability and development.

"To Vietnam, India is a close and loyal friend. The time-honoured Indian-Vietnamese relations have been strengthened following the signing of many cultural and economic cooperation agreements between the two countries."

"Like the Indian people, the Vietnamese believe that the high-level meeting between India and Vietnam this time will be a great opportunity for further developing the solidarity and cooperation between the two countries, an important factor for peace, stability, cooperation and development in Asia and the Pacific," the paper says.

Phan Doan Nam on National Defense, Diplomacy

BK2304083291 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese Mar 91 pp 29-31

[Article by Phan Doan Nam, editor in chief of VIETNAM COURIER published by Ministry of Foreign Affairs: "The Problem of How To Coordinate Security, National Defense, and Foreign Affairs in the New Revolutionary Stage"]

[Text] Looking back at the two wars against imperialism for national independence and reunification, we can see that, under the party leadership, there was a very harmonious coordination of struggle between the closely related military front and diplomatic front, with the successes of one front serving as the premise for the successes of the other. There was a time when people contended that "one cannot win at the negotiating table what one fails to win on the battlefield." Basically, this view is correct. However, it does not follow that diplomacy has only a passive role to play. To be sure, the position of strength of the struggle at the negotiating table depends on the success on the battlefield. If our Army and people had not scored resounding victories on the battlefield, no diplomat, however talented he may be, could have driven out the aggressors from our country by merely "wagging his glib tongue." On the other hand, the successes secured at the negotiating table on their part will create proper conditions for achieving new successes on the battlefield. Moreover, even with the lack of battlefield successes, it is still possible to obtain what cannot yet be achieve on the battlefield with force of arms, if we know how to effectively apply international laws and practices and the strength of a just cause, and to win the support of world opinion.

Everyone can clearly see that had it not been for the great victory at Dien Bien Phu, there would have been no Geneva Agreement in 1954. On the other hand, we should also realize that on the battlefield in 1954 and given the international situation at the time, we could not yet liberate the entire country by military means. However, in the 1954 Geneva Agreement, we still forced the enemy to recognize our country's independence, unification, and territorial integrity. That was the legal basis for the struggle for national reunification in the following stage, not to mention the fact that thanks to the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreement, we managed to temporarily hold off the massive U.S. military intervention for at least 10 years. Taking advantage of that reprieve, we went about building the north into a great rear base for the struggle to liberate the south.

We must also admit that when we signed the Paris Agreement in 1973, not everyone could fully understand the strategic signficance of the document aside from being jubilant that the United States had been forced to stop bombing the north. The extremely important significance of the 1973 Paris Agreement lay in the fact that with it we forced 500,000 American troops to withdraw from south Vietnam while the Army from the north remained in the south. That effected a radical change in the balance of power betwen us and the enemy, south Vietnam. Without that important change, how could we have advanced toward winning total victory in the Spring of 1975? Today, we can see that fact all the more clearly when we read the following words of Nguyen Van Thieu in talking to Kissinger when Thieu refused to accept the Paris Agreement. Thieu said: "Dr. Kissinger, you are a giant. You can afford the luxury of showing tolerance in this agreement. I cannot afford such luxury. For you, a poor agreement means nothing. Losing south Vietnam is no big deal for you. South Vietnam is just a speck of dust. The loss of south Vietnam may even be good for you. It may be good for the containment of China, good for your global strategy. But a little Vietnamese cannot play with the strategic world map. For us, the question is not a choice between Moscow and Beijing. It is a choice between life and death." On the other hand, we should also realize that if we do not perform well at the negotiating table, we may waste the victories achieved on the battlefield.

The relationship between security, national defense, and foreign affairs has become even closer in the new stage of the revolution, when our country is carrying out renovation. We are striving to develop relations with all countries, regardless of their sociopolitical systems, including those countries that were hostile to us in the past. This course has become an objective necessity to ensure national security and development.

As the draft platform clearly points out, the political task of the foreign affairs service is to create favorable international conditions for national construction and defense. To do so, our external relations activities must be aimed at achieving the objective President Ho Chi Minh had set forth a long time ago, namely to make more friends and fewer enemies, or better still, no enemies at all if possible, so as to secure the maximum international assistance on the basis of mutual benefit. This is naturally a task of, but not exclusive to, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is a task for all sectors. Therefore, coordination between all sectors and localities with the center to create consistency in foreign affairs is extremely necessary, with coordination among security, national defense, and foreign affairs being of utmost importance.

To achieve such coordination, the first thing for us to do is to renovate our perception of foreign affairs-related issues. First of all, coordination among security, national defense, and foreign affairs in peacetime differs from the talk-talk fight-fight pattern during wartime. At present, such a coordination among the three services is much more complicated, and in many cases they may even step on each other's toes. This is because each service may at times have too simplistic a conception of the others' tasks. There is the notion that the duty of the security and national defense services is to act as protectors. As such, it is best for them not to allow anyone into the country, or to admit only those who are really trustworthy, to make things less complicated. On the other hand, the foreign service is perceived as a doorman whose duty it is to open the door to welcome foreign guests, the more the better, regardless of their backgrounds. It is because of such superficial and erroneous conceptions that differences often flare up, with one service putting the blame on another. One thing that should be affirmed here is this: Our "open-door" policy does not mean that we must keep the door open at any cost and for anyone. No country in the world has such an unprincipled open-door policy. Even the United States, which calls itself the stronghold of "the free world," does not accept everyone who asks to visit it. Our diplomats who are sent to attend the annual UN General Assembly sessions encounter many difficulties in applying for entry visas to the United States. They usually have to wait for months, and once in New York, they are only allowed to travel within a radius of 25 miles. In Japan, a foreigner, even if he is visiting the country in an official capacity, is permitted to stay for only eight days and must apply for an extension if he wants to stay longer. In citing these examples, I just want to show that in any country, the entry of foreign visitors is considered very carefully in the interest of national security and defense. Every country pays attention to the security and national defense problem and to closely coordinating security, national defense, and foreign affairs when opening its door to foreign countries.

Nowadays, the security and national defense policies of some countries are no longer simply a matter of their own domestic affairs, but also have a bearing on other states. The complete withdrawal of our troops from Laos and Cambodia was obviously connected with international and regional relations. The readjustment of our defense strategy, the reduction of our regular Army strength by 600,000 men, and the shortening of the military term of duty to two years have markedly improved our country's image in the eyes of the world. At the same time, we must also have a correct perception of the role of the security and national defense forces in the diplomatic strategy of our party and the state in the new revolutionary stage. It is necessary to cut military expenditures to increase the budget for economic building, but military budget slashing and troop reduction must not be allowed to affect the defense posture of our country. Especially, we must not allow the enemy to take advantage of these cuts to lessen the prestige and efficiency of the armed forces, a principal instrument of the dictatorship of the proletariat. We are resolved not to allow the recurrence of a situation similar to the one that developed in the European countries in the process of their renovation, restructuring, and disarmament.

From another perspective, in today's world the foreign policy of a country has a strong effect on its domestic situation. The fact that our country is trying to normalize its relations with those countries formerly hostile to us has posed many problems for our domestic affairs. Regardless of its humanitarian character, any issue or gesture of goodwill, such as the searching for U.S. soldiers missing in action, if not treated wisely, may also create a negative impact on the domestic situation. This is because during the anti-U.S. war, our country was badly devastated, and we also have between 400,000 and 500,000 soldiers missing in action and unaccounted for.

The second problem is that in the present era, the security and national defense of a country can be ensured in a most firm and least costly way by linking the security and national defense of one country with those of another, especially with those of its neighboring countries, on a collective and equal basis. To achieve this aim, we should on the one hand build mutual trust by promoting regular exchanges of visits and travels among the people of related countries while, on the other hand, we should arrange meetings betweeen military and security leaders of these countries, particularly neighboring countries. This aspect of work requires close coordination and cooperation between various sectors—security, national defense, and foreign affairs. By doing so, we will be able to build multifaceted relations of friendship and cooperation with various countries in order to turn our region into a zone of peace, friendship, and cooperation.

It is of decisive importance that we should be unanimous in assessing the world situation, especially the schemes of hostile forces. Naturally, without a unanimous assessment, we will not have a unanimous policy and action. Overestimating or underestimating the enemy schemes will lead to erroneous policies, for instance, resorting to a closed-door policy or just leaving our door wide open without any vigilance. This is a very complicated issue in the current situation. Taking advantage of the situation where socialist countries are being caught in a crisis, imperialist and reactionary forces are intensifying their antisocialist activities in our country under various forms. Meanwhile, our party and state advocate establishing relations with all countries, including those which have not yet renounced their hostile attitude toward us. Therefore, without a unity of minds and action, we will face undue obstacles.

Given this fact, it is time to set up a coordinating organ at the highest level, that is, the National Security Council, to handle those matters concerning national interests. A national security council has been reportedly set up by our country, but its operations are still unknown. We propose that this council be consolidated and strengthened both in terms of personnel and authority so it can have real power. The chairman of the National Security Council should be the party general secretary and the council should have the chairman of the Council of Ministers as its vice chairman and the ministers of national defense, interior, foreign affairs, trade, and finance as its members. The National Security Council should compose a secretariat—to be headed by a ministerial-level official—and other subordinate sections. It should meet periodically to decide on those major policy issues concerning national security which need to be implemented by all sectors.

Only in this way can the security, national defense, and foreign relations coordinating front produce real results.

Radio on Preparations for All-Army Party Congress

BK2204162191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Station Editor Nguyen Anh Trinh's "Review of Vietnamese People's Armed Forces' Main Activities for the Past Week"]

[Excerpt] According to reports we received last week, as of mid-April the party organizations directly subordinate to the party Central Committee Military Commission had finished holding their congresses and had begun to actively prepare for the Fifth All-Army Party Organization Congress of Delegates.

The congresses of the various military regions, armed branches and services, military corps, and corresponding levels had shown that, on the basis of a synthesis of the suggestions made by the party congresses at the grass-roots and next higher level to the draft documents to be presented by the party Central Committee to the Seventh Party Congress, these congresses had concentrated on discussing the key issues of the draft documents concerning the party's viewpoints, lines, tasks, and principles. The congresses displayed a high sense of responsibility, democracy, and seriousness, thereby further raising the quality of both the theoretical and practical value of the documents. Most of the suggestions basically agreed with the documents, which affirmed that we must defend the fatherland's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and protect the socialist regime. We must strengthen the party leadership over the Army and national defense and ensure that the Army always remains absolutely loyal to the fatherland, the party, and the people, and stands firm in any eventuality. We must build a regular revolutionary people's army with a reasonable number of troops, and modernize it step by step. We must make every effort to consolidate the all-people national defense and the people's war posture, closely combine economic building with national defense and national defense with economic building in all domains on a national scale and in each locality, and so forth.

The congress of delegates of the party organizations directly subordinate to the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee elected delegates to attend the all-Army congress in strict accordance with the procedures and principles. All the party organizations accomplished this task with a single vote, and most delegates were elected with a high percentage of the votes cast.

After days of urgent and meticulous preparations in all respects, the Fifth All-Army Party Organization Congress of Delegates will be solemnly opened in Hanoi at 0800 tomorrow morning, 23 April.

The Fifth All-Army Party Organization Congress comprises delegates who typify the contingent of party members in the entire Army. Selected from the party congresses at all levels, they are generals, senior officers, PhD's, MA's, professors and associate professors, people's teachers, outstanding teachers, scientific and technical workers in the Army, and outstanding defense workers and personnel. Most of the delegates to the fifth all-Army congress were trained and tested during the two anti-French and anti-U.S. wars of resistance, performed international obligations, and are now carrying out their duties of national construction and defense. More than 70 percent of the delegates have been awarded military service and military exploit orders of all types, and 26 of them are heroes of the People's Armed Forces. No less than 27.46 percent of the delegates are college graduates and postgraduates, with 19 of them holding doctorate and masters degrees and being recipients of state- awarded professor, associate professor, people's teacher, and outstanding teacher titles. In addition, 15.43 percent of the delegates are cadres specializing in scientific and technical work. The units engaged exclusively in economic building and construction work, and national defense factories and enterprises have also sent their outstanding delegates to the congress.

Aside from the delegates who are leaders or researchers of various organs of the Ministry of National Defense, the military regions, armed branches and services, military corps, institutes, and schools, there are many delegates who are commanders of units carrying out training and standing combat-ready in all areas of the fatherland. These delegates are those who directly participated in combat activities, commanded troops, and were tried in turbulent and crucial periods of the revolution. Today they still persist in and stand firm on the revolutionary path chosen by the party and Uncle Ho.

The Fifth All-Army Party Organization Congress of Delegates is a congress that typifies the intellect of the Army's party organization. It will certainly be able to contribute many meaningful suggestions to the party in terms of strategic guidance and concrete solutions, thereby making important contributions to the success of the Seventh National Party Congress.

In our daily People's Army radio programs, we will promptly report all activities of the congress to make it convenient for you, comrades and friends, to follow its proceedings. [passage omitted]

Army Paper Welcomes Congress

BK2304145791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 23 Apr 91

[From the Press Review for 23 April]

[Text] Under the title "Concentrate intellect and will of the entire Army on persisting in the path of socialism," an editorial in today's QUAN DOI NHAN DAN says:

This all-Army congress of party delegates is charged with the important and colossal responsibility of contributing worthily to the success of the Seventh National Party Congress. The all-Army congress of party delegates will demonstrate to the fullest extent the intellect and quality of the contingent of party members and the will and aspirations of the entire Army.

Proceeding in an extremely democratic and straightforward atmosphere and with a high sense of responsibility, the congress will discuss and clarify what is right and what is wrong, defend the correct viewpoints, and preserve unity and unanimity in the Army and the party. On the basis of a profoundly renovative spirit, the congress will certainly be able to make supplementary contributions to various draft documents of the party with practical and interesting views of strategic significance, as well as to elect a delegation to the Seventh National Party Congress that can represent the intellect and will of the entire Army.

With elation and profound faith, all cadres, party members, youth union mebers, combatants, military specialists, and national defense workers and personnel in the entire Army wish the fifth all-Army congress of party delegates fine success. Let all units in the entire Army resolutely launch a movement for revolutionary action and uphold the sense of self-reliance to overcome all difficulties and outstandingly fulfill all duties, thereby joining the entire country in creating truly vigorous changes in all domains of activity. This is aimed at scoring practical achievements in honor of the historic Seventh Congress of the glorious Communist Party of Vietnam—the party that was founded and trained by President Ho Chi Minh.

More Organizations Hold 1st Round Party Congress

1st Military Region

BK2304070991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 29 Mar 91

[By Nguyen Van Nhung]

[Text] Of all military regions, Army corps, armed branches, and military services, the party organization of the 1st Military Region was the first to hold the first round party congress. The 198 delegates were outstanding delegates selected from more than 200 party organization and party chapter congresses at the grass-roots or next higher levels.

The congresses at all levels in the 1st Military Region were held in an urgent but relatively scrupulous manner. Realizing that this was an important political indoctrination drive aimed at unifying both will and action and strengthening the flesh-and-blood relations between party members and the masses, all party committee echelons directed and supervised these congresses in a cautious manner.

The military region also organized two refresher courses for lecturers for nearly 400 key cadres from the grass-roots level upward and selected a grass-roots party organization to serve as a pilot project. As a result, it was able to gain practical experience to promptly provide guidance for other units.

Commenting on this matter, Comrade Nguyen Hung Phong, secretary of the military region's party committee, said:

[Begin recording] In light of the directives of the party Central Committee Secretariat and Military Commission on convening party congresses at various levels in anticipation of the Seventh National Party Congress, as well as the directives of the party committees at various levels in the 1st Military Region's party organization, we directed and supervised these congresses cautiously and scrupulously.

Before convening the congress, we concentrated on consolidating our party organization in order to improve the quality of party members in combination with cadre-related and party-inspection work. We also reviewed the qualifications of party members and studied various contents of the task of educating party members, which were compiled by the military region itself.

Through the contribution of views to various documents of the party, the entire party organization of our military region has been able to perceive that this is a deep and broad political indoctrination drive both in the party and among the masses. By encouraging cadres, combatants, party members, and youth union members to accelerate the emulation movement in scoring many achievements to honor the party congresses at various levels and to further strenghten the intimate relations between the party and the masses, the faith of the masses and party members in the party's leadership has been further fortified and their perception of the socialist path has been affirmed ever more vigorously. [end recording]

The congress also discussed various draft documents of the Seventh National Party Congress. However, to ensure high quality, the congress presidium guided the delegates in further clarifying various major issues of concern to various party organizations at the grass-roots level, such as the accurate or inaccurate perception of the common line and of the socialist model, the basic contradictions of our society during the period of transition, the basis for achieving the economic targets by the year 2000, the evaluation of achievements and shortcomings in the 5 years of renovating the task of building up the contingent of party members, and the class nature of the party.

Delegates from the military region's party organization animatedly discussed the contents of various draft documents. There were conflicting views on many matters. However, almost all the views affirmed that socialism is the inevitable and only path for the Vietnamese revolution, in which the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam cannot be shared.

Based on a scientific analysis with specific definitions, many views proved that the arguments for pluralism and a multiparty system are but demagogic allegations by reactionary forces in their attempt to oppose the party and socialism and dissipate the revolutionary gains, which have been accomplished with the sacrifice of our people's lives for the past several decades.

As outstanding soldiers who have recorded many achievements in various wars of resistance to gain and preserve national independence and freedom and who are now stationed in an important area of the country, the delegates of the 1st Military Region's party organization paid special attention to building up the People's Armed Forces and the all-people national defense system, as well as to accelerating economic and cultural development in the mountainous areas.

Many delegates affirmed that defending the country remains one of our two strategic tasks. In view of this, it is necessary to have a correct viewpoint on developing the People's Armed Forces and the all-people national defense system. The party and the state must pay greater attention to building up the People's Armed Forces of which the core is the People's Army. It is necessary to affirm the party's direct, unified, and comprehensive leadership over the Army.

Having participated directly in drafting the platform for building socialism during the period of transition, Comrade Hoang Cuong Dong, delegate from the Political Department of the 1st Military Region said:

[Begin recording] I suggest that chapter four—the chapter dealing with national defense and security and foreign policy—be divided into two chapters. The reason for separating this chapter into two is because these two issues, although interrelated, have different positions, functions, and tasks. To successfully develop their positions, functions, and tasks, we should separate them into two to enhance their macroscopic level.

When referring to our national defense task in the years ahead as well as in the long term, we must determine clearly to whom the People's Armed Forces belong. I think that we should mention here clearly that the armed forces belong to the people and fight for the people under the CPV's leadership. [end recording]

Contributing his views to the process of economic and cultural development in the mountainous areas, Comrade Nguyen Cong Via, delegate from the Viet Bac economic corporation, said:

[Begin recording] Over the past years, the party and state have paid great attention to defining concrete policies for every domain. That attention of the party and state, however, still has not met the needs arising from the daily life of the people in the mountainous areas, which still lags far behind that of the people in the delta regions.

Because I have lived in the mountainous regions for many years, I know that these areas have suffered privations in numerous aspects, such as food supply, housing, education, and travel facilities for children and adults. There is a lack of schools and capable teachers. Regarding cultural and social activities in particular, for two or three years now no films or cultural entertainment shows have been offered by the state to the people in the remote mountainous areas, especially those in Dong Kho of Ha Quang District, Cao Bang Province, which is where I live. There is also a shortage of drinking water and a lack of communication and travel facilites for daily use.

Based on this, I myself would like to propose to the forthcoming congress that substantially concrete policies be adopted by the party and state to give priority to the people in the mountainous regions, especially those in remote and sparsely populated areas. This is aimed at implementing our party's viewpoint of combining economic work with national defense and vice versa. [end recording]

Despite the unequal standards of knowledge of the delegates, with the democratic spirit of the congress and a high sense of responsibility of all the delegates, many questions in the draft documents of the Seventh National Party Congress had been elucidated, thereby further promoting unity both in perception and action.

Through various congresses of party organization delegates of the 1st Military Region, we can believe even more firmly in the country's process of renovation under the leadership of our party.

Central Economic Organs

BK2104091291 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] The party organization of the bloc of central economic organs held its first-round congress from 17 to 20 April. Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh, member of the Political Bureau and permanent secretary of the party Central Committee, attended.

The party organization of the bloc of central economic organs boasts more than 10,000 members working in 19 staff, general, research, and management organs of the national economy. More than two-thirds of the cadres present at the congress were high- and middle-level cadres. Many specialists and scientists in various domains of socioeconomic activities were also on hand.

The delegates divided the issues raised in the draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress into three groups and focused their discussions on each group. The groups comprised the issues of socialism in Vietnam, socioeconomic development, and party renovation and reorganization. Fully aware of the characteristics and responsibility of their party organization, 30 of the 42 delegates speaking at the congress took part in debate aimed at achieving unanimity in some viewpoints and measures concerning socioeconomic stabilization and development before attending the national party congress.

In a single vote the congress elected all 36 official delegates and four alternate ones required to attend the Seventh National Party Congress.

Quang Nam-Danang Province

BK2104080391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] According to a Voice of Vietnam reporter based in Danang, the party organization of Quang Nam-Danang Province held the first round of its 15th congress of delegates from 18 to 20 April with the participation of more than 350 official delegates representing 45,000 party members throughout the province. Comrade Vo Chi Cong, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of State, attended the congress and stood as a candidate in the election of delegates to the national party congress as recommended by the party Central Committee.

The congress concentrated on discussing the 15 most prominent issues and many different opinions were reported. Through its summing up of the suggestions made by party members, cadres, and the people to the draft documents of the Seventh National Party Congress and through its vote, the congress showed high unanimity with the fundamental viewpoints in the draft documents including those concerning the line of socialist construction and party building.

Comrade Vo Chi Cong delivered an address at the congress. After pointing to the main issues aimed at further elucidating our party's views on renovation, he made concrete suggestions to Quang Nam-Danang's orientation of socioeconomic development and the issue of building the province's party organization into one, bound by unity and capable of bringing into full play its leading role in the locality.

In a single vote, the congress elected enough delegates as required to attend the national party congress.

Science Council Meets on Atomic Energy Project

BK2204153391 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] On 30 March in Hanoi, the State Science Council held a meeting to evaluate a national science and technology advancement project, named project 50B, on research in industrial production of atomic materials. The project was carried out by the National Atomic Energy Institute.

Professor Nguyen Dinh Tu, director of the project, reported the main results achieved by project 50B in the 1986-1990 period.

After several opinions were expressed by the scientists, the State Science Council evaluated the project as excellent due to the fact that it has achieving planned targets of great scientific significance and economic value. Project 50B confirmed the great potential of radium mines in creating proper conditions for developing our country's atomic energy industry.

Through the project, some modern industrial methods were successfully executed for the first time. Another great success of the project was the gathering of many industrial scientists in different fields, who discussed uranium in our country. Project 50B also produced many products for domestic consumption and export.

Australia

Plan To Downgrade Malaysian Relations Denied

BK2404071591 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Australia's foreign minister, Senator Evans, has denied he intends warning Malaysia its defense ties with Australia will be jeopardized if Kuala Lumpur continues downgrading bilateral relations.

A spokesman confirms that Senator Evans had referred to Australia's defense relationship with Malaysia in a briefing paper for the defense minister, Senator Ray, who is visiting Malaysia next week for talks. However, Senator Evans spokesman strongly denied a newspaper report that Senator Ray would discuss any downgrading of Australia's defense links with Malaysia during his visit.

Malaysia has frozen or cancelled a range of bilateral contacts in recent months because of grievances which include an Australian television program which Kuala Lumpur has found offensive.

Further on State of Ties

BK2404082291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0804 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Canberra, April 24 (AFP)—Australian Defence Minister Robert Ray has rejected Foreign Ministry advice that he use the future of defence links with Malaysia as a stick to improve diplomatic ties between the two countries, officials said here Wednesday.

The officials were responding to a newspaper report that Foreign Minister Gareth Evans had proposed "retaliation" for Malaysia's decision to downgrade relations. [passage omitted]

According to Wednesday's AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW, Mr. Evans suggested that Mr. Ray take a blunter line when he arrives in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday for a meeting of the Five Powers Defence Arrangement countries: Malaysia, Australia, Singapore, Britain and New Zealand.

The review quoted a confidential Foreign Ministry cable saying that Mr. Evans had told his cabinet colleague:

"This visit will provide the opportunity to register at ministerial level our view that Malaysia should not expect to benefit indefinitely from selective maintenance of defence relations with Australia while keeping measures to restrict and downgrade other aspects of the official relationship."

Under the headline "Evans Proposes Retaliation Over Malaysian Stand," the FINANCIAL REVIEW said:

"If the government accepts this advice it will dramatically raise the stakes in the diplomatic conflict with Malaysia, now Australia's most serious regional problem."

The Defence Ministry vigorously denied that Mr. Ray planned to follow such advice.

A defence spokesman said: "The only response I can give you to a story like that is that it is, quote, absolute bullshit."

Foreign Ministry officials also said that the FINANCIAL REVIEW had sensationalised the story.

"The suggestion in the headline of the article that the letter suggested retaliation against Malaysia is false," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"Senator Ray will not be raising any question of the downgrading of bilateral defence links."

But the officials confirmed that Mr. Evans had written to Mr. Ray "before his departure for South-East Asia, to provide him with background on Australia's current bilateral differences with Malaysia."

Foreign Ministry officials quoted Mr. Evans in the letter as saying that "the government is living with the problem and seeking to work its way quietly through it."

The officials added: "Solutions are not likely to be helped by leaking of confidential documents."

Envoy Cites Opposition to Malaysian Trade Plan

OW2204132791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—Australia is not in favor of a Malaysian proposal for an East Asian economic grouping if it results in the establishment of a trading bloc, Australian Ambassador to Japan Rawdon Dalrymple said Monday.

But the ambassador said Australia is not "hostile" toward the Malaysian proposal for a grouping that would include the ASEAN nations—Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines—as well as Japan and South Korea.

The Malaysian proposal would exclude Australia and New Zealand, which are among the nations included with ASEAN countries in the Australian-initiated Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) grouping launched in Canberra in 1989.

The proposal, first floated by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed in December, has received lukewarm support from other Southeast Asian nations.

Dalrymple told a luncheon at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan that Australia has monitored discussion in ASEAN member countries on the Malaysian proposal "with great interest."

He said comments by Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans in Tokyo on Saturday about the Malaysian proposal were "not hostile."

"Evans did not say we are hostile to it," Dalrymple said.

"He said to the extent that the proposal started off as a proposal for a trading bloc, we are not in favor of trading blocs.

"Australia is interested in reinforcing the multilateral trading system under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"The focus has to be to try to get a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round.

"Our attitude has been one of somewhat reserve.

"We hope it is not a proposal which interferes with APEC."

Dalrymple said Australia plans to use the third APEC meeting, in South Korea in November, to seek further consideration of an Australian paper addressing trade liberalization in the region "in the framework of global trade liberalization."

Minister 'Disappointed' With ASEAN Investment

BK2204065691 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Australia's trade minister, Neal Blewett, says he is disappointed with the level of Australian investment in ASEAN. Dr. Blewett was speaking in Canberra at the opening of the 14th ASEAN- Australia Forum which focusses on business and trade issues.

The forum is being attended by 150 government officials and business people from Australia and the six ASEAN countries.

Dr. Blewett says although Australia's trade with ASEAN has risen in volume in recent years, Australia has not increased its share of the total ASEAN trade.

[Begin Blewett recording] ...clearly, there is more to be done to develop our economic links. The level of Australian investment in ASEAN is disappointing. However it has used its venture capital in areas vital to economic development. Similarly, although Australia's trade with the ASEAN countries has risen significantly in value over the past few years, our share of ASEAN's trade has remained constant. [end recording]

New Zealand

Minister Announces U.S. Naval Review Plans

BK2404073691 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] The United States will not be sending any warship to New Zealand this year to mark the New Zealand Navy's 50th anniversary. New Zealand's defense minister, Warren Cooper, said the country's antinuclear laws passed by the previous Labor government six years ago remained an impediment to relations between Washington and Wellington. Mr Cooper said the Americans would send a delegation to the 1-7 October naval review.

The National [Party] government elected last October is trying to repair traditional defense links with the United States and Britain while at the same time keeping most of the anitnuclear laws.

$89 Million Trade Surplus Recorded

BK2404052691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0254 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Wellington, April 24 (AFP)—New Zealand ran a trade surplus of 151.1 million New Zealand dollars (88.9 million U.S. dollars) for the year ended March 31, the Statistics Department reported Wednesday.

During the previous 12 months, New Zealand suffered a trade deficit of 269.8 million dollars (158.9 million U.S.).

Exports in March were valued at 1.353 billion dollars (796 million U.S.), and imports in the month totalled 1.097 billion dollars (646 million U.S.).

Solomon Islands

Minister Appeals for Honiara Accord Commitment

BK2004073091 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Solomon Islands has appealed to the Papua New Guinea Government and rebels on the troubled Bougainville to reaffirm their commitment to a peace accord reached last January. The appeal was contained in a statement issued in Honiara by the foreign affairs and trade relations minister, Sir Peter Kenilorea.

It said Solomon Islands was concerned over the recent military incursion into Bougainville by Papua New Guinea defense force soldiers. Such action, he said, defied not only the spirit and letter of the accord known as the Honiara Declaration, but also posed an obstacle to a peaceful and lasting solution to the situation on Bougainville.

Sir Peter said implementation of the provisions of the declarations, including the setting up a multinational supervisory team, had been jeopardized by the military action.